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CIS Summit in Dec Likely To Be Postponed

LD1412204694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Dec. 14 (INTERFAX-WEST)—The next CIS summit scheduled to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on December 23 will probably be put off indefinitely.

According to Interfax's sources in Minsk where the CIS headquarters is, presidents of nine Commonwealth member states sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin on December 14 asking for a postponement of the summit until next January or February. Only Azerbaijan's Heydar Aliyev and Kazakhstan's Nursultan Nazarbayev did not sign the letter.

The new date of the summit is expected to be agreed on within two or three days.

More on Moscow Session of CIS Heads of Government Council

MM1412145194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Nikolayev: "CIS Countries Unanimous: A Single Market Is Needed. But It Does Not Exist Yet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the overwhelming majority of sovereign republics formed after the disintegration of the USSR have been disappointed in their former hopes of finding reliable economic support in the West alone. The CIS Heads of Government Council, which met in Moscow last Friday [9 December], confirmed that fact for all to see. The focal point around which the discussion of the 20 or so questions revolved was the task of implementing the Treaty on the Creation of the CIS Economic Union.

The economic state of the CIS countries is providing the persistent impetus to the urgent solution of this task. The following figures were cited at the session. This year the CIS states' GDP will fall by 16 percent, industrial production will be down 23 percent, and agricultural production will be down almost 10 percent. In other words, the crisis is undermining the economy of all members of the Commonwealth without exception. And the latter is still in an amorphous state. Furthermore, the trade and economic ties between its members are continuing to weaken. Commodity exchange among them has been declining since 1991. This year it will only amount to scarcely more than one-third of the 1990 figure.

Talk about the Economic Union has been going on for a long time. In fact, however, this very difficult process took a back seat as far as the CIS countries' foreign economic activity was concerned. As Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin noted, you cannot be guided by the residual principle when dealing with the CIS' problems. Admittedly, the CIS members have signed quite a few useful agreements recently. Between the start of the year and the meeting five days ago, 65 documents have come into being, 38 of them trade and economic. You would think this quite a solid legal foundation on which to begin building the edifice of the future Union. However, many accords still exist only on paper and have not been put into practice. Almost two dozen more documents have now been added to them.

The participants in the conference insisted that the agreements which have been concluded should finally be backed up by specific action. But on whom will that depend? First and foremost, of course, on the mutual understanding and good will of the CIS countries' governments and on whether they will succeed in overcoming the inertia existing in relations among CIS states and giving them priority over other countries.

The preconditions for that exist. The recently-created Interstate Economic Committee is to begin work soon. Yuriy Yarov, who has been confirmed as chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee collegium, will take up his post within a week. The Committee is to be simultaneously the Union's think tank and executive center and will act promptly to resolve specific, often sensitive issues (transportation, the supply of energy, the implementation of agreements, and so forth) and major problems relating to the strategy of the further deepening of integration. But the danger still exists that the new agency's professional activities will be submerged in fruitless discussions on whether its activity violates sovereignty or not.

This was the first time that such a session has held a very candid discussion of mutual payments. The partner countries owe the Russian fuel and energy complex 7.6 trillion rubles [R] for example, almost R6.6 trillion of that figure for gas. How is this intricate problem to be resolved? The method of granting the states credits equivalent to $5.6 billion has been tried. However, it did not improve credit-money relations. On the contrary, the debt problem worsened and is being cleared at a snail's pace. Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that it will be necessary to introduce prepayment and examine questions of debts and nonpayments for 1995 only in close conjunction with the fulfillment of commitments for 1994. His interlocutors probably received this innovation without enthusiasm. But no other way of establishing truly mutually beneficial cooperation was offered.

The ordinary Russian citizen might not delve deeply into the intricacies of the mechanism of economic cooperation among the CIS countries but he is bound to ask: What will I actually get from the Union and the common market? The Council has answered that question: In addition to the 15 or so agreements already signed, it also examimed new documents in the social sphere. They envisage the provision of assistance to refugees and forced migrants, civil rights guarantees, compensation for families with children, and much else. It is Viktor

Chernomyrdin's belief that no money should be spared for resolving these programs.

The Moscow session was held in atmosphere of intensive work. Could it confidently be called productive? To judge from the external aspects of it—the packed agenda and the large-scale plans—then of course it can. But it will take time before the correct assessment is finally given: Time alone will tell how realistic its plans are. I should like to believe, however, that there will be no divergence between word and deed this time.

Industrialists of 3 Slavic States Discuss Integration

MK1412131194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Cooperation" rubric: "Industrialists of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia Call for Further Integration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of industrialists and entrepreneurs of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia [Belarus] took place in Minsk on 12 and 13 December. Its outcome is a treaty on cooperation between the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE), the Belorussian Science-Industrial Association (BSIA), and the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (UUIE); and a treaty on the creation of transnational financial-industrial groups.

The meeting also revealed important differences between the leaders of these organizations in regard to the prospects of an economic and political integration of the three Eastern Slavic states. Whereas BSIA President Mikhail Lawrinowich and his Ukrainian counterpart Vasyl Yevtukhov think the potential of the Commonwealth of Independent States is far from exhausted, RUIE President Arkadiy Volskiy expects no effect from the further existence of the CIS. Mr. Volskiy sees the rescue for the economic potentials in all three countries in reintegration alone—first in the form of an economic union, and later, in the form of a political one.

The industrialists and entrepreneurs of the three countries stated at the meeting in Minsk their full support for the decision to conclude a customs union between their states and to develop the various forms of associations of industrial and financial structures into multilateral transnational corporations, financial-industrial groups, holdings, joint ventures, and so on. Machine-building, metalworking, radio-electronics, and electro-technical, chemical, and petrochemical industries are singled out in the treaty as priority sectors.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Dec

LD1512081294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0704 GMT 15 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—Information on developments in and around Chechnya is frontpaged in the Thursday [15 December] editions of Russian newspapers.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs the text of a speech made by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the national conference on the subject "Women and Development: Rights, Reality, Prospects", in which the head of government set out basic orientations of the government's policy concerning the Chechen crisis.

The government's all actions aimed at resolving the Chechen crisis are based on the principle of the indivisibility and territorial integrity of the Russian state, Chernomyrdin said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries information from a meeting of the government commission for day-to-day activities. The commission discussed the situation in Chechnya and plans of actions to bring life there back to normal.

The commission members arrived at a conclusion that "aid and economic rehabilitation should follow troops. With this end in view, it is planned to establish a purpose-oriented fund for the economic rehabilitation of the republic by directing money from budget investments and from the reserve funds of the government and the Ministry for Emergency Situations." The accomplishments these first-priority tasks will reportedly require 1,000,000 million roubles.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA:

"Talks between the delegations of the Russian Government and Chechnya were interrupted on Wednesday. The deadline set in the Russian president's ultimatum for the disarmament of unlawful formations in Chechnya expires on Thursday.

"Tomorrow a war may enter every Russian home", the newspaper concludes on the strength of an analysis of events in Chechnya and throughout the North Caucasian region.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, who believes that the essence of the conflict with Chechnya is being misinterpreted. "This is not a conflict between Chechen and Russian peoples," he said. "This is a personal conflict between Dudayev, mafia-style clans, which make huge profits on oil deals, on trade in weapons and narcotics, and the Chechen and Russian peoples. The conflict is an artificial one which is aimed at misappropriating the republic's wealth uncontrolledly under the flag of independence".

Touching upon a settlement of the conflict, Khasbulatov remarked that "the question of power in Chechnya should be tackled exclusively in a democratic way, through the expression of the people's will".

PRAVDA believes that Chechnya has become "a proving ground for a redistribution of property in

Russia." The newspaper writes that "the threat of a new Caucasian war, which overhangs Russia, fits into the context of the second stage of privatisation."

The newspaper emphasises that "the authorities may adapt the current Chechen crisis, which diverts society from the most acute economic problems, for facilitating the solution of the main task of the moment—to diffuse all-Russia property."

IZVESTIYA draws attention to another important aspect of the Chechen problem. The newspaper believes that "civil control over the operation in Chechnya has been lost. A Chernomyrdin-headed headquarters was secretively set up following the issue of the presidential ultimatum to coordinate all actions in that republic. Then a provisional information centre was set up."

"After troops were brought to Chechnya, the operational guidance of the military-political operation in the North Caucasus was assigned to First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets.

"from the very outset, none of officials involved in the operation could explain convincingly to journalists and, naturally, to their fellow countrymen what has been happening in Chechnya."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an article by Presidential Council member Leonid Smirnyagin, who examines ways to resolve the Chechen crisis.

Smirnyagin maintains that Chechnya may get wide autonomy within the framework of the current Russian Constitution. With this end in view "the Chechen people should be shown that it is possible to seek a very wide autonomy within the framework of the Russian Constitution and organise life as the Chechen people want, provided several categorical requirements are met: a ban on secession and compliance with all-Russia principles of statehood".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes a "sensational" document which suggests that a national guard—elite special-purpose units—be set up in Russia. The authors of the idea—the staff of a certain analytical centre which supplies materials to top Russian leaders—maintain that the leader of the Russian state cannot do without reliable military supporters.

A national guard must become a mechanism for the protection of the constitutional order and democratic gains of the peoples, and the mainstay for the Russian president as the guarantor of the observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. The necessity of such an institutions has been called forth primarily by the events of August-91 and October-93, the document says.

Gore's Visit Seen as Attempt To Iron Out Differences

MK1412121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Karpov under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Vice President Gore's Mission. It Is Designed To Show a Lack of Differences in Principle Between the Russian Federation and the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Officially, U.S. Vice President Al Gore is due to arrive in Moscow today to attend the fourth session of the Russian-U.S. intergovernment commission on economic and technological cooperation. Plus talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin. Clearly discernible beyond Gore's visit, however, is the desire by both the U.S. and Russian sides to dispel the impression that relations between the two powers are showing signs of breaking, an impression that was left after Brussels and Budapest.

With regard to Boris Yeltsin's harsh statement in the Hungarian capital, a spokesman for the U.S. Administration said at a briefing in Washington that while the tone of the statement elicited astonishment, the conclusion about an abrupt worsening in Russian-U.S. relations, which was drawn on this basis, is wrong. The person responsible for the Brussels disappointment, Andrey Kozyrev, said, for his part, that one should not overestimate differences in Russian and U.S. views on NATO's expansion. At the same time, he backed away from Russian claims to the right of veto regarding NATO decisions. Therefore, both sides are trying to distance themselves from the conclusion about a worsening, if not an aggravation, in bilateral relations, drawn in connection with their latest steps.

Also pointing in this direction is Bill Clinton's speech in Miami, in which he, while calling his administration's Russian policy a right one, stressed that it has more positive aspects to it than negative ones. As for differences between the great powers, this is quite a normal thing. Moreover, the U.S. President reaffirmed that Russia is moving along a democratic path and has been complying with obligations it has undertaken. For instance, those on the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltics.

Gore will reportedly discuss in Moscow differing stances of the Russian Federation and the United States on NATO and a settlement in Bosnia. The situation in Chechnya—a Russian affair, as the Americans see it—will remain outside the scope of Gore's talks. Apart from Chernomyrdin, he could possibly meet with the leaders of both chambers of the Russian parliament. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, his schedule features much time to spare. Maybe an effective use of this time will enable him to achieve the desired result.

Relations Seen 'on a Normal Level'

MM1512095094 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Yuriy Nikolayev: "The Latest Session of the 'Chernomyrdin-Gore' Commission Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth session of the Russian-U.S. Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation opened in Moscow today. It is still called, for short, the "Chernomyrdin-Gore" commission, based on the names of the body's cochairmen—our Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

In addition to wanting to know what would be discussed at the latest of these sessions, which are held twice a year alternately in the United States and Russia, meticulous Washington journalists were interested in this question: Will the tension that has appeared recently in relations between the two countries affect its work? The U.S. Administration representatives, on the whole, replied in the negative, emphasizing that the problems tackled by the commission are of interest to both sides.

Nobody gathered Russian journalists together for a news conference in Moscow. But sources close to the group of experts who prepared the meeting remarked that in this instance we should not mix up politics with economics, although their influence on each other cannot be denied. When two businessmen reach agreement with one another, their deal is routinely influenced by the general conditions in which it is concluded.

In general these conditions are good in our country, and the rails of a constructive partnership have already been laid. It is another matter that the train of cooperation may travel slower or faster along them. Yet we should not be demanding complete harmony of Russian-U.S. relations. We do not have such ties even with some partners in the near abroad. There is also the question of who Russia has more problems with: with certain nearer or more distant countries.

But even if we do not resort to such a comparison, it is perfectly clear that Russia and the United States are discussing serious problems of cooperation in Moscow. This is a true indication that their relations are on a normal level. Specific practical matters will be discussed in the commission. This means that the process of mutual cooperation has an inner dynamic. It is quite difficult for the political situation to undermine it.

The commission's Moscow session will continue work in the same areas of cooperation as were outlined at previous sessions. They concern the spheres of business, energy, space, the latest technologies, defense industry conversion, and environmental protection. The only innovation is that a seventh committee will be created in addition to the six that already exist—one on health care. The importance of this area is in no need of elucidation.

The general thrust of the session's work is to implement the developments and the groundwork that has already been done in various spheres and to seek the most effective ways of doing so. A package of 19 agreements, programs, and projects has been prepared. The choice of space as one of the priority themes is also that we are bound to welcome. The partners have made appreciable progress in this sphere, as they have been carrying out joint work here ever since the commission started to be formed. It is now a question of creating an international space station. It is planned to start implementing the project in 1997.

The significance that the U.S. side attaches to the commission's work can be judged from the makeup of its delegation. In addition to A. Gore, it includes Defense Secretary William Perry, Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, and other officials.

On the eve of Gore's visit the U.S. press reported that the problems of Bosnia, of NATO expansion, and others were also expected to be discussed during the session. But in no way do such issues fall within the commission's remit. It can only be assumed that they might be touched on in meetings with Russia's leaders outside the framework of the Russian-U.S. body.

Yesterday Gore talked with State Duma Speaker I. Rybkin and had a working dinner with Premier V. Chernomyrdin. Today a meeting is planned for the U.S. guest with Federation Council Speaker V. Shumeyko.

Worse Time for Gore Visit 'Difficult To Imagine'

MM1512112094 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 7

[Report by Sergey Ivanov: "We Will Discover Klondyke in Pechora"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—It is difficult to imagine a worse time for the visit of U.S. Vice President Albert Gore's delegation to Moscow. In addition to the diplomatic disagreements between Russia and the United States that have been sufficiently clearly expressed over recent months—over the situation in Bosnia, the extension of NATO through the inclusion of East European countries, the Russian Federation's active stance in defense of its economic interests in Iraq—the current situation is reminiscent of one where a guest is at the door while the hosts are urgently trying to extinguish a fire.

On the other hand, following the recent elections to the U.S. Congress the idea of aiding Russia's reforms is no way uppermost for the new American legislators, to whose opinion the White House listens with no less attention than Moscow listens to bulletins from Groznyy.

In April 1993, when the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission was set up, it was decided to vest it with practical functions, without any dynamic and not easily controllable day-to-day political complications. The main aim of this important regular assembly is the extension of Russian-U.S. cooperation in the economic sphere, scientific exchanges, and the mutually profitable introduction of technologies. As of the time of A. Gore's departure for Moscow a whole series of Russian-U.S. committees set up over the past 18 months existed in the commission's framework. For example, the joint committee on the development of Russian-U.S. business relations, committees for energy, defense questions, and conversion, the environment, science and technology, space, and so forth. During the visit it is planned to create yet another joint body, on health care.

In the power generation sphere the problems of ensuring the safety of Russian nuclear reactors will be discussed in detail. Those old acquaintances, Grachev and Perry, will elucidate their positions regarding NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. The portfolio of major joint projects includes an initiative by the leaders of U.S. oil-refining companies to begin the exploitation of an oil field in the Russian Arctic North, notably in the Timan-Pechora Basin.

According to the leading U.S. oil company Texaco, Pechora's northern littoral will be able to pump hitherto unprecedented amounts of oil.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Calls For Restraint in Chechnya

LD1412172394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1653 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 14 Dec (TASS)—Kazakhstan's foreign minister on visit in Moscow called on warring sides in Chechnya to display restraint and seek for peaceful means (of conflict settlement) to avoid raging bloodshed. This is the only way-out of the current situation, Kasymzhomart Tokayev told reporters here on Wednesday after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Tokayev said Kazakhstan viewed recent moves of the Russian leadership in the context of preserving the unity of the Russian state. Chechnya is a part of the state, and there is no doubt about its legal status, he said. Tokayev expressed hope the conflict will not sweep over other territories.

Kazakhstan's foreign minister reminded that, within the Commonwealth of Independent States, his country was among the first to respond to events in Chechnya.

Touching upon international response to the Chechen crisis, Kozyrev said Russia welcomed any country's concern and wish for peace settlement. But we always remind that this very conflict is Russia's internal affair, he added.

Islamic States Set To Present United View on Chechnya

MM1412153694 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "The Islamic World Has Responded to Events in Chechnya From Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The council of ministers of Saudi Arabia expresses regret in connection with Russia's armed intervention in the Chechen Republic and calls on the states of the Islamic world and all friendly, peace-loving states to help end Russia's armed operations against Chechnya and prevent bloodshed."

This statement by the cabinet of King Fahd—custodian of the Muslim holy places in Mecca and Medina—has for some reason caused a stir in the Russian press, although given the Saudi monarch's special status something of the kind was only to be expected from Riyadh. In the opinion of Foreign Ministry staffers, who reacted very calmly to the statement, a reaction from other Muslim states can also be expected in the near future. The Islamic world's view of events in Chechnya is expected to be summed up in a statement by the participants in the Islamic Conference Organization summit meeting which is taking place in Casablanca.

Bosnia, Karabakh, Chechnya. Muslim countries are increasingly frequently speaking out from a common viewpoint about events in the hot spots. Volunteers from Iran and Afghanistan are already fighting on the side of the Bosnian Muslims. Will something similar happen in Chechnya?

On the one hand, it seems that the "Islamic factor" will not make itself felt fully, since concrete relations with Europe or, say, Russia are more important to individual Muslim capitals than an ephemeral brotherhood with the impoverished Chechens or Bosnians. In the majority of cases rich countries like the Persian Gulf monarchies make do with monetary payments. As for Iran, which is the most consistent champion of the ideas of pan-Islamism, it does not have such great resources, and moreover the Iranians do not know how to act with any subtlety far away from the Near and Middle East which they understand.

However, it must not be forgotten that the development of events on the vast territory from Morocco to Afghanistan is leading toward the inevitable emergence of some idea uniting the region's states. The values of Islamic civilization could become that idea.

And then, in future, in the event of the outbreak of conflicts like the Chechen conflict, the voice of the Islamic world will be heard far more loudly than today.

Denmark Considers Military Intervention in Chechnya 'Wrong'

LD1412122994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen December 14 TASS—The Danish Government thinks the introduction of Russian troops in Chechnya does not formally contradict international law, but the move is wrong, Denmark's Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said.

Neither international law nor the CSCE's principles have been violated by Russia as Chechnya was not recognised as an independent republic by any state, Petersen said addressing a news conference after a Tuesday sitting of the parliamentary foreign policy commission.

Petersen said the Chechen issue would be discussed on Monday at the European Union's foreign ministerial meeting within the frame of the Council of Ministers. The foreign minister stressed that any "sanctions" against Russia were out of question. The best the meeting could do is to recommend Russia to handle the conflict by peaceful means, Petersen said.

The Danish foreign minister did not rule out that the conflict might spread over other Caucasian regions because it might assume a religious dimension. The events in Chechnya should be also seen from the perspective of confrontation between Orthodox Russians and Muslims, Petersen thinks.

Moscow: 15 Casualties in Bombing Incident in Sichuan

OW1412145194 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Chinese police are hoping to arrest the culprit who threw a grenade into a crowd at the Chengdu train station. The explosion caused 15 casualties, including tourists from Taiwan; many of them were killed. The authorities did not provide other details of the incident, nor gave the time of the incident. Police believe the culprit is an ex-convict who had completed serving a prison term for robbery.

Kozyrev: Russia Cannot Choose Between Kuwait, Iraq

LD1412170794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 14 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korznun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq and Kuwait are Russia's economic partners and that is why Moscow cannot take sides. The statement was made in Moscow on Wednesday at the meeting with foreign-policy scholars by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

He said that "it is necessary to put Iraq to conduct peaceful policies, not to suppress one side at the expense of the other".

Kozyrev spoke in detail about the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States. He expressed hope that the CIS countries will enter the year 1995 without bloodshed. "The outgoing year 1994 has become an important step from the "disintegration" to forming a viable cooperation among the CIS countries. "We managed to part in a civilized way and this year the Commonwealth was turning into an institute of integration, not disintegration," he said and warned that the process will be "difficult and delicate".

Kozyrev said that "it is inadmissible to confuse Russia's role in the CIS of a "locomotive" with that of an "empire". Kozyrev said that "Russia plays a decisive role in the peace-keeping process on the territory of the CIS countries both in the military and financial planes."

Kozyrev said that existing in the West is "a powerful, not domineering idea to the effect that Russia should dominate on the CIS territory, while NATO in the rest of the world." The minister said that "the authors of the idea would like to take advantage of the difficulties experienced by Russia in the hope to seize as many as possible spheres of influence." We cannot permit this," he said.

Kozyrev warned against "being euphoric" concerning communication with Western democracies. "Under way is a difficult process of cooperation without ideological confrontation," he said.

Speaking about partnership with NATO, Kozyrev said that he had not signed in Brussels the Russia-NATO treaty, because the NATO Council approved a communique on extending the North Atlantic Alliance. "This document differs drastically from that we had expected. This means that we were invited for a breakfast but the table was laid for dinner," he said.

According to Kozyrev, he needed time to study the communique. "Besides, I needed to consult the president," he said.

The minister said that he considers as "normal" the extension of the North Atlantic Alliance, with Russia included. "However, this should be a gradual process. Haste is out of place here," he said.

Former Soviet dissident, now Director of the Department for International humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Vyacheslav Bakhmin, believes that violation of human rights is "inevitable" during the operation in Chechnya.

"The situation is complicated," said Bakhmin on Wednesday in an interview with Interfax. He said that in the process of restoring the constitutional order and the constitutional rights, the federal authorities in Chechnya have inevitably to violate human rights up to the main right—to live. This causes the death of both Russian army and Interior Ministry servicemen, and civilians, though everything is being done to avoid this, said the diplomat.

Bakhmin believes that the Russian authorities have not fully used economic measures to improve the situation. It seems that initially it was believed that those measures lack prospect. This, probably, caused the use of force to settle the conflict, he said.

According to Bakhmin, "even today it is necessary to use all possible measures to stop the escalation of violence and use political, diplomatic measures, to resort to negotiations. As it is evident from the sad experience in the former Yugoslavia, the military solution is short-lived and often brings things to a deadlock, he said.

He said that peoples of the Caucasus and the Moslem world as a whole will not stay indifferent to the developments in Chechnya. The question is whether this will cause a civil or a Caucasian war. "I do hope this will not happen," he said.

"I would not like to think that the conflict may develop into an assault of Groznyy or any other tough violence. If this does not happen, there will be no war, he said.

The diplomat also dwelt on the position of Saudi Arabia which appealed to the Moslem world to put an end to the "Chechen tragedy". "Such strong statements are premature and unconstructive," he said. It is significant that other countries either give their backing to Moscow or occupy a wait-and-see position. "Obviously, any state may have a similar situation and would be forced to resort to the same, virtually legitimate, measures, as Russia did," said Bakhmin.

Kozyrev Views Achievements of Russian Diplomacy

LD1412164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1549 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 14 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met a group of politolotgists today to analyze the results of the foreign office's activities as of the present moment.

At the meeting which was held in the Foreign Ministry building on Smolenskaya Square in Moscow, he noted that now it was necessary, on the one hand, to avoid complacency which might arise in consequence of "obvious positive advances" made by Russia in a number of directions.

On the other hand, he said, one should be panic-stricken in connection with the difficulties which Russian diplomacy continues to experience in the implementation of its foreign political course.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, in the passing y[illegible] the Russian Foreign Office has made a "major step forward" in turning the Commonwealth of Independent States from the mechanism for a "civilized divorce" between the former Soviet republics into the mechanism for their integration. For instance, he said institutes of political integration had been established within the framework of the Commonwealth in 1994, and the Commonwealth countries advanced some joint initiatives within the framework of the United Nations and the Conference for Security and Coordination in Europe (CSCE).

Speaking on the Russian diplomacy activities in different regions of the world, the head of the Russian foreign office stressed that the ministry had managed specifically to create a "durable foundation" of the development in Russo-Chinese relations: the border issues were settled and many-sided partnership was formed with the "great Chinese neighbor". However, the problem of the large-scale migration of the population from China to Russia is still remaining.

A "quiet and civilized" approach has prevailed in relations between Russia and Japan in the settlement of issues of bilateral ties, the foreign minister noted.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, one should not fall in a state of euphoria" about partnership relations established with western democracies. "the most complex process of interaction without ideological confrontation is going on," he noted.

The minister pointed out to the need to form a "link" between Russia and the NATO. For the time being, the division into "we" and "they" exists, Andrey Kozyrev said.

The minister also focused on the reasons for which the Russian delegation had refused to sign the "Russia-NATO" program in Brussels early this month.

The contents of the document offered by NATO representatives to a great extent differed from the earlier agreed principles, Andrey Kozyrev explained. At the preparatory stage both sides discussed the possibility of concluding an agreement on "partnership with the probability of the NATO enlargement". However, the suggested draft agreement had displaced stresses with the center of gravity put on the prospects for the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The head of Russian diplomacy believes there are advocates of the idea of a new division of the world in accordance with which Russia's sphere of influence must be only territories of the Commonwealth states while the NATO's sphere must be all the rest of the world including eastern europe. In Andrey Kozyrev's view, this idea is not predominating in the west, however it must be taken into consideration.

Kozyrev Comments on Accords Signed With Latvia

LD1412173994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian and Latvian foreign ministers signed five agreements in Moscow today. These documents include a consular convention and a document on travel. In an interview with our correspondent, Andrey Kozyrev described these documents as a path toward the establishment of a humane and civilized border. Well, a beginning to this path, for, generally speaking, this is how it can be described.

Andrey Kozyrev also expressed [one second's break in reception] agreements could possibly be concluded in Estonia in future. This would make life easier, in the border areas, at any rate.

East Europe To Improve Relations With Russia on Joining EU

LD1412203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 14 TASS—Moscow would like the current rapprochement of Central and East European countries with the European Union (EU) to be followed by closer relations between these countries and Russia, said a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Nikita Matkovskiy told Russian and foreign reporters that the Foreign Ministry was thoroughly examining the decisions taken at the Essen meeting of the European Council. This meeting considered the possibility of enlarging the EU by admitting Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The programme of actions to this effect approved in Essen is aimed at a regular political dialogue, creation of a free trade zone, structural reorganization, development of integrated transport networks and power grids, adaptation to the EU single agrarian policy, unification of internal laws of the applicant countries.

The spokesman also said Russia was greatly concerned with implementation of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Union.

Envoys Hope Chernomyrdin's India Visit Will Go Ahead

LD1412121494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Diplomats in the Russian Foreign Ministry proceed from the fact that developments in Chechnya will not affect Russian Prime Minister

Viktor Chernomyrdin's plans and his visit to Delhi will take place as scheduled, on December 21-24.

Diplomats are prepared for any turn of events but hope that nothing unexpected will take place, Interfax was told on Wednesday by a high-ranking Russian diplomat who is responsible for preparations for the visit. He said that a group of experts had left for Delhi on December 14. It will finalize the draft documents to be signed during the visit.

The diplomat believes it is premature to name the documents. "There will be many of them and they will involve almost all spheres of the bilateral cooperation, from the military to the economic sphere," he said.

Foreign Ministry on Arrest of Radio Liberty 'Collaborators'

LD1412191194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 14 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] References to the CIS Convention on Legal Aid are irrelevant in the case of the arrest of two Turkoman [Turkmen] dissidents in Moscow at the end of November because Turkmenistan has not signed it, Teymuraz Ramishvili, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's international humanitarian cooperation and human rights department, told Interfax Tuesday.

He said that the Convention on Legal Aid and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Cases concluded by CIS leaders in Minsk on January 25, 1993 had been signed only by Belarus, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as well as Russia. Russia ratified the Convention but this did not come into effect before December 10, he said.

Federal Counterintelligence Service officers arrested Turkoman dissidents Murat Esenov and Kholmurat Suyunov, collaborators of Radio Liberty, in Moscow on November 24 and 25. According to acting prosecutor general Aleksey Ilyushenko, they were arrested on the orders of the Prosecutor General's Office which acted on the information made available by Turkmenistan's Prosecutor General's Office. The men are held in the Lefortovo detention center, Ilyushenko said.

IF Note: Turkmenistan embassy's press secretary Kamil Kalandarov told Interfax Saturday that Esenov and Suyunov had master-minded the preparations for an attempt on Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov's life. Two other dissidents, arrested by Turkmenistan's special services in Tashkent and held in an Ashgabat prison, had admitted this, Kalandarov said.

Meanwhile, Russian services put an end a few days ago to illegal activities of three Uzbek Foreign Ministry officials who had been engaged in violence against Uzbek citizens in Russia, sources close to Russian law enforcement bodies told Interfax Tuesday.

The three men are said to use the cover of fighting organized crime to terrorize those in opposition to the Uzbek leadership.

Chernomyrdin, Gore Open Economic Commission Session

LD1512092394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0903 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin, Gennadiy Yezhov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore opened on Thursday the fourth session of the Russo-American Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation. It is held in Moscow's President-Hotel.

Apologising for a delay (the commission's meeting began 40 minutes later than the appointed time), Chernomyrdin explained this by saying that during a luncheon on Thursday morning there was an active discussion with U.S. Vice-President Gore of matters of bilateral cooperation. Most themes which will be discussed at the commission's meeting were touched upon. The commission includes heads of departments in the areas of energetics, science and technology, health, outer space, environmental protection, as well as representatives of military agencies.

In his turn, the U.S. vice-president said that on the basis of the results of the current session of the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission it is planned to sign a number of new agreements on cooperation. Nevertheless, the commission's purpose is not just to issue documents, Gore said. The U.S. side seeks really to expand trade and increase the flow of investment that could help the Russian economy in the transition period. In addition, the U.S. side has specific plans to deepen cooperation in space exploration, environmental protection, high-tech areas. All this meets the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Experience shows that the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission proved a very effective instrument for establishing technological and trade relations between the two great powers in the post Cold-War period, the U.S. vice-president noted particularly in his speech. A business-like approach reigning at the commission's sessions helps resolve any matters, even those that seem to defy solution. The commission works on a basis of confidence and mutual respect characteristic of present-day Russo-American relations.

Subcommittees on energetics, science and technology and health care are scheduled to work in the morning. The subcommittees on cooperation in outer space and in environmental protection will work in the afternoon.

The subcommittees are headed by chiefs of appropriate agencies of the two countries.

Viktor Chernomyrdin presides over the commission's session today. Albert Gore will be presiding over it on Friday.

The Russo-American commission on economic and technological cooperation was set up in 1993 in accordance with the decisions of the presidents of the two countries at a summit in Vancouver, Canada.

Bank Protests 'Slanderous Attack' Based on CIA Report

MM1512094594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

["Statement by 'Menatep' Bank Board of Directors"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with THE WASHINGTON TIMES' publication of an article entitled "Most Russian Banks Are Involved in Crime...", the management of the "MENATEP" Bank, which is mentioned in the item, deems it necessary to state that all charges of alleged "illegal" activity by the bank, which the writer of the article claims are based on data from a "secret" CIA report, are untrue.

In this report, the writer admits, the CIA did not identify the specific types of illegal activity in which the bank was involved, and yet the newspaper saw fit to disseminate totally uncorroborated information, thus damaging the reputation of "MENATEP" and of the Russian banking system as a whole. It is no accident that facts which might provide evidence of the bank's "illegal" activity are absent from the aforementioned report (unless the report is a figment of the journalist's imagination). They simply do no exist in reality.

The natural question is who wanted this "secret" report farce in the first place? Apparently, its purpose is to discredit Russian financiers in the eyes of their foreign partners and undermine private U.S. investors' confidence in Russia. Nor can it be ruled out that not everyone is overjoyed by the rapid growth of "MENATEP's" financial power and its consistent efforts to stabilize the Russian economy and, therefore, strengthen Russian statehood.

The attitude in the United States itself to the reliability and authenticity of information originating from deep inside the CIA is a matter for the U.S. taxpayer. But the casual enthusiasm with which some Russian media—in particular RTR VESTI, the Mayak radio station, and the newspapers PRAVDA and VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA—join in disseminating disinformation manufactured abroad about entrepreneurs over here is regrettable.

The management of the "MENATEP" Bank will not tolerate such slanderous attacks, whatever their origin. It reserves the right to use all legal means of defending its reputation, honor, and dignity.

[signed] Board of Directors of the "MENATEP" Bank

[dated] 8 December 1994

U.S. Investigating Reported Use of Stingers Over Chechnya

[ITAR-TASS report: "The Pentagon Checks Whether There Are Stingers in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 14 Dec—The Pentagon and the U.S. special services are currently investigating whether a Russian Su-27 military aircraft really was brought down by a U.S.-made Stinger missile over Chechnya 29 November. THE WASHINGTON TIMES reported this, citing informed sources.

The newspaper cites the words of an unidentified Pentagon spokesman to the effect that it is difficult to confirm reliably now whether there really are Stingers in Chechnya.

Citing official U.S. data, THE WASHINGTON TIMES reports that at least 150, and maybe even several hundred, Stingers previously supplied to the Afghan mujahidin through CIA channels were never traced in 1990. The possibility that these missiles were sold on the "black" markets of Southwest Asia cannot be ruled out. Several years ago the CIA launched a secret operation to buy up Stingers, but it proved unsuccessful, THE WASHINGTON TIMES writes in conclusion.

Special Envoy Notes Key Contact Group Strategic Objectives

LD1412222694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2131 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb December 15 TASS—The tactical and strategic objectives of the five-nation "Contact Group" provide for the following steps in settling the Bosnian conflict: concluding a cease-fire agreement, creating conditions to prevent fresh combat operations, getting down to peace talks and writing a fair, non-discriminatory constitution for Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to the Russian president's special envoy Aleksandr Zotov.

The Russian diplomat, who came for the second time in the past seven days to the Croatian capital to attend a meeting of the "Contact Group", assessed prospects for Bosnian settlement with reserved optimism. This settlement remains quite possible despite dramatic events in western Bosnia, since a political compromise still can be found, he noted.

At its meeting in Zagreb, the "Contact Group" is expected to discuss the possibility of fulfilling the decisions taken at the group's Brussels meeting at the foreign minister level. The visit by the "Contact Group" to Sarajevo, which was postponed last week, is not planned for the time being.

No Threats on Nuclear Stations in Connection With Groznyy

LD1412174294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry has not received any terrorist threats regarding Russian nuclear stations in connection with the Chechen crisis, Chief of the ministry's public relations department Georgy Kaurov told Interfax.

He said that at present nuclear power stations and other nuclear structures are working normally and "no special measures were taken to heighten already reliable security."

According to Kaurov, it is practically impossible to blow up a nuclear station because nuclear reactors are protected by a three- meter-thick concrete wall. To destroy the power unit it is necessary to lay three-four tonnes of trotyl, said the spokesman.

At the same time units of the Interior Ministry and of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, who guard nuclear power stations are on full alert to prevent any possible attacks.

U.S. To Check Efficiency of CBW Destruction Technology

MM1512104794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy: "Experts Compare Toxic Chemical Agent Destruction Technologies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 14 Dec—The United States and Russia have agreed to start checking the methods which Russian specialists propose to use to destroy chemical weapons. The agreement on this was signed Tuesday [13 December] by Harold Smith, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for atomic energy, and Colonel General Stanislav Petrov, chief of the Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense.

Russian scientists intend to brief their U.S. counterparts on the skills of the technological process which Russia uses to neutralize the toxic chemical agents incorporated in chemical weapons. Then this method will be tested at U.S. military installations for the destruction of chemical weapons.

"We want to see how efficient this technology is," H. Smith declared. Contradictions with regard to this question were long the subject of dispute between specialists of the two countries. Washington considers the Russian technology more costly. In this instance the Americans have every reason to count money, for they are faced with allocating to Russia a considerable sum to eliminate stocks of chemical weapons. Therefore they are primarily interested in ensuring that the process of destroying chemical weapons in Russia is as inexpensive as possible.

The United States plans to spend $7 billion on destroying its own arsenals of chemical weapons.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Election Bill Passes First Step

MK1412123094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Indira Dunayeva under the "In Brief" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—A sitting of the Duma legislation and judicial-legal reform committee took place yesterday in connection with the fact that on 11 December, President Boris Yeltsin forwarded to the State Duma his draft federal law on elections for president of the Russian Federation. At this moment the Duma is already working on several draft laws. Five members of the committee who were proposing their draft law withdrew it. The committee decided to recommend to the Duma to pass in first reading the federal draft law proposed by the president, and, in preparing it for second reading, to take into consideration the proposition contained in the draft law proposed by the "Yabloko" faction, the part of it that does not contradict the already passed laws on the elections.

Yeltsin To Return To Kremlin 15 Dec

LD1412154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Boris Yeltsin is soon to return to the Kremlin from the Central Hospital. "He is likely to return tomorrow," the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told INTERFAX. On Wednesday [14 December] Kostikov took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Doctor Sakharov in the Vostryakovskoye Cemetery. On the occasion of five years since Sakharov's death, flowers were laid on behalf of the Russian president.

Kostikov said that Yeltsin is likely to meet with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore who is to arrive in Moscow on Wednesday. However, believes Kostikov, their meeting, if it takes place, will be "informal".

Arbatov on Public's 'Anti-American Mood'

MM1412172394 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 4

[Interview with Academician Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States and Canada Institute, by Vladimir Koval: "'The West's Intrigues Are Not As Bad As Our Lack of Thought'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past 10 years there have been marked changes in Russian-American relations: From fierce confrontation to ostentatious amicability, which, according to some, has been replaced by indifference.

During "perestroyka" there was much talk of the need for mutually advantageous interpenetration involving ideas, people, and capital. What has been achieved in this sphere? Why are anti-American feelings becoming increasingly popular here? How is it that our country is becoming less of a force to reckon with in the foreign policy arena? Are the changes that have taken place in recent years in relations between Russia and the West reversible?

Our correspondent tried to get an answer to these and other questions from world-renowned analyst Georgiy Arkadyevich Arbatov, academician and director of the United States and Canada Institute. The conversation began with an assessment of the present state of Russian-American relations.

We Embarked on Russian Foreign Policy in the Absence of a Blueprint

[Arbatov] I would say that relations remain at a perfectly decent level, but more out of inertia than as a result of any successes of late. Unfortunately, I have to say that by and large I do not yet regard the changes that have taken place in relations with America and the West as irreversible. I have said this many times before. But before talking about the future, let us concentrate on the present state of affairs.

Relations are, in fact, constantly deteriorating. Why? First of all, analyzing people's mood, I would say that after August 1991, in my view, there was no general anti-American mood. It was typical only of small groups of people and paranoid people with a personal interest in continuing the Cold War and the arms race. Now anti-Americanism has become pretty much widespread. And I would not deny that there are some grounds for this mood, which I will dwell on later.

Here is an example. Congress was still controlled by the Democrats. The U.S. President proposed giving Russia aid amounting to $3 billion. Of course, that would not have saved us: Germany is investing around $100 billion annually in its eastern laender and will be doing so for a long time to come. And the GDR population was only one-ninth of Russia's. Nonetheless, the U.S. Congress more than halved the amount proposed by the President. I do not know how much of this sum the present congressmen, most of them Republicans, will leave.

We effectively embarked on Russian foreign policy in the absence of a blueprint, and, likewise, of a national interests blueprint.

With an unclear idea about foreign policy, we initially endeavored to cajole the West, and then set about demonstrating our role as a great power.

Take the Americans' refusal, without taking note of the UN Security Council's view, to participate in the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian government. That step in itself could increase tension in the region. But what bothers me is the blatantly provocative nature of this step.

NATO Is Not a Bloc That Is Cut Out To Safeguard Peace

There is yet another, more serious factor from the viewpoint of its impact on our internal situation and on foreign policy. It is the plans to admit the so-called Visegrad group to NATO.

NATO is a military bloc devised to combat a major enemy. It may not be cut out to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia. You can send aircraft and bomb certain targets, but safeguarding peace is quite a different function.

Now countries directly bordering on us are being admitted to NATO. In the first place, this will immediately complicate the internal situation in Russia: The discontent not only of nationalists but of citizens who are simply cautious—and there are plenty of people at the moment who are wary of the United States and the West—will begin to assume a more aggressive shape. After all, the former principal potential enemy will be right up against our frontier.

On the other hand, without preliminary consultations with the Security Council, we stepped up our policy in the Near East and in Iraq. The forms this took and, most important, the illusions propagated by the media to the effect that Iraq would immediately return the seven billion it owed the USSR, show what little thought had gone into this step in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Koval] Georgiy Arkadyevich, can you talk in greater detail about why you regard Kozyrev's plans to get Iraq to pays its debts as illusory?

[Arbatov] In the first place, no one is intending to remove any restrictions following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait (this is only one condition of the lifting of the embargo). Second, I do not think that the Arab countries will be in a hurry to let Iraq have its share of the oil sales quota. Third, Saddam Husayn would be in no rush to send to Russia the first monies received in the event of the removal of the first two conditions, but would use them to try to solve the domestic problems that have built up. And, most important, he is obliged to pay billions in compensation to Kuwait!

To be honest, basically I do not believe that Iraq will ever return the money to us. Take Syria: No one has ever imposed an embargo on it, it also owes us a great deal, but it has no intention of returning anything.

I am not opposed to peacemaking activities. But neither should we exaggerate the significance of the step taken in relation to Iraq. We must not antagonize those with whom we had intended to cooperate and make the transition to collaboration, particularly the countries of the Persian Gulf.

[Koval] Perhaps Kozyrev took this step after the humiliation he had undergone during the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan?

[Arbatov] That may have warranted an emotional response. But professional politics has no room for emotions; it requires cold calculation.

What Is the Reason for the Anti-American Mood in our Country? [subhead]

[Arbatov] If you are talking about the reason for the slight cooling in our relations with the United States, the principal factor, I believe, is the reform proposed by Gaydar and adopted as a guide. Foreign policy is directly dependent on the country's domestic situation.

There is a widespread view in the United States that the USSR was undermined by the tough policy imposed by Reagan. But three years of "shock therapy" and its consequences have done far more damage to the country's economy and its foreign policy status than 45 years of the arms race. It is not only the economy that has suffered, but the social and spiritual state of society that has been hit as well. Whereas at the beginning of the reform the president was asking people to wait just four-six months, the next year we were not even being promised any improvement. Now, apparently, we have to wait another three years and only then will we begin to see an improvement in our well-being, industrial growth, and so on.

But for all that, it was obvious and it was clearly demonstrated that this reform was recommended to us by the West and the "Big Seven," the IMF, and the World Bank. Our leadership readily accepted the advice of Western consultants like Jeffrey Sachs.

There was even a theory, which I do not share, that all these reforms were imposed on us for the express purpose of undermining Russia's might, deindustrializing it, and turning it into a Third World country, producing only raw materials and buying everything, right down to food—already 55 percent of what we consume is imported.

The entire system of prices, profit, and plunder and, most significantly, the vast class of bureaucrats, who want to live in clover without producing anything—they constitute the main reason why prices crept inexorably upward when they were freed. The majority of the people have become impoverished, while a minority, closer, for one reason or another, to the people's property, is flaunting its criminal wealth. It is said that in Moscow alone more casinos have opened than in the whole of Europe. And isn't it disgraceful to see advertisements like: "Dear Russians, spend your vacation in the Canary Islands!"? And this despite the fact that for the majority of Russians the only question is: How are we going to survive, to live?

The death rate has risen, the birth rate has fallen. We are losing one million people every year. Of course, many ascribe the lamentable condition of Russia since Gaydar's reforms began to the intrigues of the West, the foreign enemy.

I do not agree with this for a number of reasons. In America, of course, there are people who would like to reduce Russia to the status of a third-rate power. I could actually name many of them. But I know many more Americans who are afraid of economic chaos in our country, which would be bound to lead to political instability.

In my view, the worsening of Russians' plight since the beginning of the reforms is the prime reason for the emergence of anti-American sentiment. I expected from Clinton a change of U.S. policy toward Russia. He is getting rid of the last vestiges of Reaganomics over there, yet Russia is being advised to foster it in every way!

Even if this reform had succeeded, it would have led to 19th century capitalism here. This means among other things that we would have again entered an orbit which would have produced its own Karl Marx, then Lenin, then Bolsheviks, and so on and so forth.

Of course, the transition from the old economy to the new is very difficult, and that is partly due to the apparent indecision of the last Soviet government. But after much vacillation and wavering they chose the most unsatisfactory, the most painful transition to the market, and the most primitive market at that, one the West had left a long time ago. And we have few hopes of the evolution that 19th century capitalism underwent.

Take America itself. Capitalism in general, and American capitalism in particular were able to exploit colonies or semicolonies (the United States has Latin America). It was also under pressure from the fear of Bolshevism, which was forcing it to give way to the opponents of reforms. Times have now changed completely, and Russia would be unlikely to be affected by either.

The Language of Extremes Is Bad in Every Respect

[Koval] How do you and your institute view the prospects for Russian-American relations in the light of the changes that have taken place in the United States?

[Arbatov] It is not a matter of what is worse for Russia: Congress in the hands of the Democrats or the Republicans. There have been good relations between our countries in periods when the Democrats have been all-powerful (remember Roosevelt), and bad relations (Truman, for example). But the same can be said about the Republicans. The beginning of detente is associated with the name of Nixon, and relations with Reagan were shaping up pretty well in the final period of his rule. So what party is in power is not the point.

What is worrying is that key posts in Congress are going to be taken up by people who represent the most conservative, bellicose section of the Republicans. Jessie Helms, for example, the most bellicose and most conservative person in the U.S. Congress, will be chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Of course, he may have changed in recent years—we will be able to judge whether or not this is the case when the new Congress begins work. But by and large I believe that the atmosphere in Congress will become colder, to say the least, vis-a-vis Russia.

So changes are taking place on both sides: a more anti-American, anti-Western mood among a large section of the Russian parliamewnt, and the same in America. Bellicose actions, provoking an appropriate response, might begin on other side, which would be bound to contribute to an escalation of tension between our countries.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration will increasingly have to be looking over its shoulder at the domestic opposition. We can observe these processes in our politics as well. Indeed, Kozyrev, for example, has started to speak a different language since Zhirinovskiy appeared in the Russian parliament.

[Koval] Some people believe that this is to Zhirinovskiy's credit.

[Arbatov] Certainly not. I would say that language was bad and this one is not good either. It is the language of extremes, which disregards the traditions of true Russian diplomacy. It is necessary to maintain normal, even relations, while fully appreciating and upholding the country's interests.

The State Is Suffering from a Lack of Professionalism in Politics

Summing up, I would say that I am not pessimistic, although there are grounds for concern.

We had excellent opportunities in 1991 to consolidate the unquestionable successes of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. Unfortunately, we were not entirely successful. Look how empty the bilateral talks agendas have become! We are not conducting any talks on disarmament. We used to talk a great deal about a new world order: It was Bush's favorite topic. Does anyone remember this now?

If you recall, it was then that new opportunities emerged for giving the United Nations special status. What has been done in that area? Nothing.

The legacy of the Cold War is vast. New approaches and new solutions are needed. But the Americans still have a military budget of $260 billion, even without an enemy. OK, it used to be $300 billion, but today's $260 billion is not much less. Mountains of weapons and a vast military industry that requires skillful but, at the same time, rapid conversion. Yet nothing of the sort is happening in the United States. The Cold War is still in people's minds, still part of their mentality.

All this could have been the subject of a major dialogue between Russia and the United States, but it has not gotten that far. All Russian foreign policy amounts to is reacting to events. Sure, you have to react, but you also need to form a world political system!

What Is the Degree of Mutual Openness Between West and East?

[Koval] So the next question, Georgiy Arkadyevich, is: Much has been said in the past about the main component of the new world order—interpenetration involving people, ideas, and capital. In your view, how far have the West and the East advanced in the policy of mutual openness? It appears that Russia is more open to the West than the West is to Russia. Is this maybe due to the lack of professionalism on the part of politicians and diplomats?

[Arbatov] I talked about this even when I was on the president's consultative council. Many new, inexperienced people have come into politics lacking special training, even education, and this is affecting the quality of the state's foreign policy activities. The bureaucracy is growing at a frightening rate and things are being run sloppily. Basic work standards and practical skills are lacking. Nothing is obligatory any more. The signature of the president or the premier sometimes means nothing any more. A document is signed, but it certainly does not mean that the directive will be carried out. Everything is decided at the middle-management level.

As for the policy of mutual openness.... Let us say that there is interpenetration involving people. Although it is not always the best people—in either direction. Even among our president's advisers you can encounter experts from abroad whom the Americans themselves would never accept as advisers.

As far as capital is concerned, it is having great problems getting to us, of course. We have a kind of fear of Western investors. It should be a fear of credits, because they will have to be issued—and not only to us but to future generations as well. If we conduct a competent investment policy the state is bound to benefit.

All over the world investments are tax-free. But not here. So Russian producers try to leave their profits in the West and invest in an economy that is already flourishing. The movement of capital exists, but it is the wrong kind of movement.

Without a doubt, this is the government's fault, because it determined the conditions whereby Western capital would be invested in Russia and Russian businessmen would find it most advantageous to invest profits in the development of their own production, rather than in a foreign economy. But the taxes and terms of transfer and investment of money are as disadvantageous as you can get, and this is due not to Western intrigues but to our own lack of thought and unprofessional approach.

But all this can be rectified. It is in relation to science and culture that I really am very worried. There is an obvious brain drain from Russia at the moment. It is hard to blame foreign entrepreneurs for this, because they are concerned about their own profits. Russian science has always had a reputation for clear thinking and, in conditions where scientific and cultural figures in Russia itself are in a degrading position, people abroad are naturally trying to cream off the best for themselves. But once again we are faced with the fact that the government either has little idea what to do, or....

That is, we are faced with interpenetration involving people, ideas, and capital, but not in a way that benefits Russia at all.

Are the Top People Interested in the Opinions of Academics?

[Koval] During our conversation there have been several calls from foreign press representatives in Moscow. Is the government interested at all in your institute's studies?

[Arbatov] We are sometimes approached, but it is by no means a permanent arrangement, even at the level that existed previously. Often it is purely formal. There is an academic council at the Foreign Ministry. I have been to several council sessions, but I do not remember anything happening there that affected Russian policy in any way.

As for any special assignments from the Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, or presidential structures, I have the impression that the authorities are generally much less interested in the views of academic institutions, that they exist in a state of self-sufficiency.

If there is anyone with whom we cooperate really well, it is the Duma Committee on International Affairs. Perhaps this is due partly to personal reasons (Lukin worked for many years in our institute), but it is mainly that the head of the committee is accustomed to a certain way of working and to respecting the opinion of professionals.

And the president? Well, recently, after the U.S. elections, there was a televised conference of experts on international affairs, but I did not see a single professional academic among them. Although before the president's U.S. trip two of our staff were asked to help prepare speeches.

To be honest, in the present conditions we do not expect the top people to be interested in our opinions. It is up to us to make a move: If we have a certain opinion or have carried out a particular study, we should inform the authorities. It would be a pleasure to work with RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA too. But I think that our main task today is to preserve the institute's potential. When these troubled times are over, and I am very hopeful on that score, then they will remember the people who provide a breeding ground for fruitful ideas.

[Koval] So you remain an optimist?

[Arbatov] I am moderately optimistic, although I regard the current situation as being very dangerous for society. But I hope we will have the common sense and intelligence and the strength to change the existing policy. They say there are no talented people. Not so; there always have been, and new ones have appeared: for example, in the Duma under Glazyev, under Petrakov and Abalkin. Whether people like it or not, there is now a cadre alternative to the people currently performing the state's foreign policy activities. And anyway, a large apparatus like the president's current apparatus is not doing its job if it is not studying the alternatives that emerged in domestic and foreign policy. But I am optimistic.... Moderately optimistic.

Zhirinovskiy Protests LDP Deputies Detention

LD1312215094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2019 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six cars belonging to the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] were stopped by a traffic police patrol for ignoring a red light in St. Petersburg Tuesday [13 December] morning, the Interior Ministry Public Relations Center reports. According to the center, the incident was recorded, following which the drivers were allowed to proceed. No force was used.

This report followed up on a letter sent by the LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky to Interior Minister Viktor Yerin Tuesday morning demanding an investigation into the incident. Zhirinovsky said that a party parliamentary group delegation, headed by himself, had been detained for no good reason by men in police uniform as the delegation drove to Pulkovo airport.

Illegal Auto Business Increases in Revenues

LD1312214694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By revenues, the illegal auto business in Russia shares the second position with trade of arms, the first one being occupied by narcobusiness. Since the beginning of 1994, more than 100,000 attempts and about 40,000 thefts of cars have been registered in Russia, a deputy head of the Main Criminal Department of the Russian Interior Ministry, Yuriy Lyashev, told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday [13 December].

According to the police, this kind of crime is the most widespread in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Primorye and the Sverdlovsk, Samara and Tyumen regions. Experience shows that 60 percent of cars are stolen for sale, 22 percent for sale of auto parts and 18 percent for personal use.

Thanks to efforts of the police, the number of thefts and hijackings of cars was reduced by 20.5 percent in 1994. At the same time, most car thieves escaped punishment. Out of 29,000 criminals detained in 1993, only 4,500 were sentenced to a term of imprisonment, including only 280 sentenced to three to eight years in prison.

The ministry believes that criminal penalties for this kind of crimes must be further restricted along with perfecting anti-theft systems.

Chernomyrdin Orders Shurchkov's Removal

MM1512152194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Milov under the "Cadres" rubric: "Industrial Policy Committee Chairman Removed from Post"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has ordered Igor Shurchkov to be removed from the post of chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy "in connection with his reassignment to other work."

As ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has learned, the initiative came from Igor Shurchkov himself, who, in the opinion of his colleagues, had long found the committee chairman's duties onerous. It is difficult to judge whether these feelings on the chairman's part were reflected in the work of the committee itself, but judging by the reactions of the leaders of many sectors, they did not feel that the committee played a big part in resolving industrial policy problems. What you can say is that in this situation, whereby production is decreasing, the committee failed to find devices to influence this process and failed to become a "trendsetter" in the restructuring of industry. This, in turn, sets one thinking about whether such a state committee is necessary at all. Evidently the Cabinet of Ministers has plans, among other things, to reorganize departments which have not proved their worth.

After taking leave of his colleagues Mr. Shurchkov went on scheduled leave. He has chosen himself another place of work like his predecessor Aleksandr Titkin, who formed a certain corporation "of his own" beforehand. It is said that Shurchkov will go abroad and work in a foreign trade organization.

Some Leaders Seek Benefit From Chechen Conflict

LD1512140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1250 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 15 December TASS—Russia's influential political scientists and politicians told ITAR-TASS that some recognised democratic leaders, parties and factions differ with the president and the government on Chechnya not because of their adherence to principles but because of their desire to benefit from the current political situation.

Their attitudes are hardly likely to radically affect the overall alignment of forces in the State Duma and the country as a whole.

Presidential Council member Andranik Migranyan believes that the commonality of the stance announced by Yegor Gaydar and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy with regard to Chechnya disguises their different objectives.

"Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is deliberately seeking confrontation with the powers to be and is posing as an alternative for the democratically-minded voters," Migranyan said.

"The Yabloko leader is seeking to demonstrate that the country's leaders are acting ineffectively, and he is the only alternative leader and the only hope for democracy," he added.

As concerns Yegor Gaydar and Russia's Choice, they are motivated by their reluctance to see the president shift to more pronounced state-patriotic positions, Migranyan said.

He believes that Boris Yeltsin in the obtaining situation needs the democrats, including those from Russia's Choice, much less than they need him. If he decides to run in the next presidential elections, Yeltsin will rely on the existing power structures and not on "pocket" parties.

As concerns Yegor Gaydar, his party and his faction, they have no options: "If they distance themselves from the president, they will become a marginal and absolutely insignificant force in society," Migranyan said.

Co-chairman of the Russian Social-Democratic Union Vasiliy Lipitskiy thinks that the democrats' concerted anti-presidential action in the Chechen issue was prompted by "an emotional reaction to the events and the desire to score political points very quickly and effectively".

Lipitskiy found characteristic "the inconsistence with which the political forces which used to support the president and government almost unconditionally launched an attack on the president and the government". Lipitskiy added that Yegor Gaydar's desire to play down the biting edge of his initial statements became evident already on Wednesday.

According to Lipitskiy, the authorities are now facing a more serious problem than the departure of some once loyal politicians. The problem is that they now have as their allies those people whom they would have preferred not to see as such. He clarified that he had in mind the extreme nationalists, Zhirinovskyites, who see the president's policy as the realisation of their schemes.

Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov pointed to Russia's Choice's lack of consistence and accused its leaders of chameleon-like behaviour. As concerns his party's stance on Chechnya, Zyuganov confirmed that the communists were in favour of Russia's unity and integrity, and the time for negotiations was not yet irretrievably lost.

The communists have their own grudge: they say the authorities wasted a lot of time before getting down to business with Chechnya. "Two or three years ago it could have been done almost without bloodshed," Zyuganov said.

Government Reminds Chechens of 15 Dec Deadline

LD1412175294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1638 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Government press service has passed the following communication to ITAR-TASS:

"The Government of the Russian Federation reminds whom it may concern that the term of the decree of the President of the Russian Federation on an amnesty for all members of the illegal armed formations in the area of the internal Chechen conflict who voluntarily lay down their arms expires on 15 December. The demand for voluntary disarmament is also supported by the State Duma in its resolution 'On declaring an amnesty for those persons engaging in unlawful acts connected to the armed conflicts in the North Caucasus.'

"The hour has come to have a change of heart, lay down arms, and restore in full the operation of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation on the territory of one of its subjects—the Chechen Republic. The dissolution of the illegal armed formations will contribute to the successful progress of the inevitably difficult negotiations on a comprehensive internal Chechen settlement that have begun in Vladikavkaz.

"We appeal to the leaders of the illegal armed formations—do not test the patience of the federal authority any longer! The time for persuasion is rapidly running out. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and the inviolability of its borders will be protected, and the constitutional legality and the rights and freedoms of the citizens in the zone of the inter-Chechen conflict will be guaranteed. All the means at the disposal of the state will be adopted, and all the constitutional prerogatives of the president and government of the Russian Federation will be used.

"We urge Dzhokhar Dudayev to finally recognize his responsibility toward his own people, and not to burden his conscience with the weight of further crimes. The time has come to put an end to the fratricidal conflict into which the peoples of the Chechen Republic have been dragged in recent years.

"We reiterate our firm intention to carry out our constitutional duty, to put an end to the bloodshed in the zone of the inter-Chechen conflict, and to guarantee the integrity of the Russian Federation.

"Those who fail to lay down their weapons on 15 December will bear responsibility for all the consequences of their criminal recklessness."

Russia's Choice Sponsor Opposes Chechnya Policy

MK1412084094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Boris Sherman under the "Break" rubric: "Oleg Boyko Denounces Actions by 'Russia's Choice'

Leadership. Some Allies of Yegor Gaydar Have Fears About Future of Party Coffers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the Chechen crisis develops, the conflict, which has caused a split among the "Russia's Choice" leadership, is becoming increasingly deep and evident to outsiders. Following Andrey Kozyrev, who in a demonstrative gesture left the radical democrats' faction at the State Duma the other day, Oleg Boyko, chairman of the Gaydar party's executive committee, too, voiced his utter disagreement with the stance taken by "Russia's Choice" leaders. The chief of the Olbi concern, whose financial support has until now served as the nearly single serious underpinning of Democratic Choice's relative well-being and provided an organizational basis for the political activity of Yegor Gaydar's loyalists, issued a protest statement of sorts yesterday.

The text signed by Oleg Boyko harshly denounces "certain political forces" for whom the situation in Chechnya "provides a pretext... for dragging us into yet another campaign of disparaging the president and government of the country..." Moreover, Mr. Boyko condemned as impermissible any desire "to make expedient political capital on the squares and in front of television cameras on such days." "Only irresponsible politicians," he wrote, "while hypocritically urging stability and order, can stand in the way of requisite efforts to bring this very order." This is notably a harsh and blunt statement even if the distributed text does not contain a single name or mentions a single political organization.

All attempts by your SEGODNYA correspondent to find out how seriously the threat of a definitive break with a leader of a large business friendly to Russia's Choice is seen by its activists have encountered the deputies' clear unwillingness openly to discuss the conflict that has just flared up. Only one parliamentarian remarked halfheartedly (and even he categorically forbade to disclose his name) in a sort of ominous prophecy: "Kozyrev's departure is, of course, very deplorable. He will take the party's international influence away with him. But Boyko's walkout is an even more serious matter because he will take party coffers away."

Other Democratic Choice of Russia representatives cited in unison the decision made by the party's Coordinating Council yesterday after a stormy 90-minute debate on "a stance on the Chechen issue." Deputy Yuliy Nisnevich, for instance, insisted that the council meeting demonstrated the party leaders' ability to reach complete understanding even at a time when diametrically opposed and at first glance utterly incompatible viewpoints are being voiced. The statement, which was agreed upon by council members and which, according to a number of Russia's Choice deputies, represents a middle-of-the-road, most balanced stance, expresses a "profound conviction" that force methods "will not help to achieve stability and constitutional order in Chechnya."

The document also says that "any other (different from those laid down in the statement—B.Sh.) interpretations of the party's stance on the Chechen issue express personal viewpoints of individual Russia's Choice members." According to many Russia's Choice representatives, this clause will help the party stave off particularly bitter conflicts and unnecessary splits at so important a juncture.

Mr. Boyko's stance also appears to have affected Democratic Choice's decision to give up demands regarding the impeachment procedure.

Leaders Deny Split

LD1412180194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yegor Gaydar and Oleg Boyko have refuted the information that has appeared concerning the split in the leadership of the democratic Russia's Choice Party on the question of the Chechen crisis. The letter, which he sent to the press and to regional party organizations, says: We are categorically against any attempts to use the situation in Chechnya to destabilize Russian statehood, to undermine the legally elected power, to organize early presidential elections, or to call for an impeachment.

Speaking in support of the integrity of Russia, the Democratic Russia's Choice Party, while regarding Chechnya as one of the subjects of the Russian Federation, believes it is quite possible to settle the Chechen problem through talks, stresses the statement.

Defense Ministry Denies Generals Oppose Policy

LD1512100994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] General Vladimir Kosarev, head of the Ministry of Defense Information and Press Directorate, has informed the provisional information center that there have been claims in some Russian and foreign media—citing the notorious competent source of the Ministry of Defense—that Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, and Col. Gen. Georgiy Kondratyev, deputy defense minister, have allegedly opposed the use of military force on the territory of Chechnya in measures to restore constitutional order there. These reports are at variance with reality and are aimed at splitting the top Russian military leadership.

Shumeyko: Intervention, Secession Both 'Bad'

MM1412112594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "What Speaker Shumeyko Said"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The situation has now reached extremes. To all intents and purposes Chechnya has lost contact with the Russian Federation, while remaining in law part and parcel of it. People say that we should negotiate or declare a state of emergency, take measures.

Measures to liquidate the illegal bandit formations and confiscate their weapons. Hitherto these measures have been taken in a homegrown manner, by various departments without any coordination.

"The Chechen issue now absolutely has to be resolved. But both solutions are bad. Military intervention is bad. Chechnya's secession from Russia is bad too. Russia cannot give up an inalienably sovereign part of itself. If we allow this to happen it will be the end of Russia."

Social Democrats Urge 'Peacekeeping' Role

MM1412121494 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

["Own information" report: "Who Is Playing Which Cards?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Social Democratic Union [RSDU] Presidium has voiced alarm in connection with the situation which has taken shape in the North Caucasus and with the hysteria which certain political forces are fanning over it. Rejecting the strong-arm option for resolving the "Chechen question," it believes that the organs of executive power failed to exhaust the opportunities for peacefully resolving the crisis.

The RSDU advocates the restoration of legal order and democracy throughout the territory of Russia, including the Chechen Republic. To this end it is proposed to turn the Russian troops' mission in Chechnya into a peacekeeping mission for the purpose of separating the warring sides and localizing the conflict and to make it the purpose of talks with all its participants to demarcate powers between the Russian Federation and Chechnya and to define the conditions for holding free elections there.

Condemning the attempts by a number of Russian politicians to use the Chechen people's tragedy for their own narrow party purposes, the Social Democrats recall that a year ago the leaders of "Russia's Choice" supported the use of tanks in the streets of Moscow. But today they have virtually risen to the defense of Dudayev's dictatorial regime in order to achieve changes advantageous to them in the executive power. The RSDU also draws attention to the threat of the Chechen conflict's being used to establish a dictatorship in Russia.

Gorbachev Cites 'Real' Danger of Caucasus War

BR1312134594 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 13 Dec 94 p 10

[Interview with Former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev by Giulietto Chiesa in Moscow; date not given: " 'West, You Cannot Close Your Eyes' "—first two paragraphs are LA STAMPA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mikhail Gorbachev is worried, like many people in Moscow at the moment. The Russian troops, trapped in the snow in Chechnya, are like hazy shadows moving confusedly among the whirling snow circling over the capital. What is happening? What are the ways out of this situation?

"We are faced with an enormous problem. Chechnya has exploded like a bubo that has been left growing for too long. However, it is not just Chechnya. We have to look at what is around us, at the concentric circles which the stone of military intervention will create when thrown into the great Russian pond. With these people we cannot act the way the Kremlin has acted. We have to know them, because only by knowing them can you predict their reactions, and respect their culture and traditions. The opposite has happened: We have offended and humiliated them. There was an enormous opportunity for negotiation, but this was not even looked into. In just a few days, with awkward and incompetent actions, the situation has been allowed to head toward a tragedy.

[Chiesa] Do you feel that there is truly a risk of a war of the Caucasus?

[Gorbachev] That is a real and very concrete danger. The generals who sent the expeditionary force against a republic which is part of Russia do not realize that this will not be a little romp on the sunny beaches of Haiti. It is not just a question of volunteers or mercenaries that might show up—indeed, who are showing up—in Groznyy to help Dudayev. The guerrilla war will not be fought in the capital, but in the mountains—and not only in the mountains of Chechnya but throughout the entire northern Caucasus. There is no army of occupation that can win this kind of war, because a regular army has never managed to win against a people.

[Chiesa] So you rule out a military victory in the short term?

[Gorbachev] I rule it out. I repeat, the Army can only be sent in if one is ignorant of the history of the Chechen people and the peoples of the Caucasus in general. Chechnya has been fighting for many decades against a central power in Moscow that has enslaved it, first with the czars, and then with the Soviet authorities. Stalin repressed it bloodily, and this ended up with the mass deportation of the entire people. There was the hope that a new democratic power, which respected national rights, could have pacified the region, but this hope was shattered once again by the brutality of the new rulers in the Kremlin. Everything that is happening is terrible for Chechnya, but it is also terrible for the whole of Russia. The repercussions of this intervention will soon reach all the way to Moscow, destabilizing the already precarious balances. Now Yeltsin is trying forceful repression, but it is easy to predict that he will not succeed.

[Chiesa] Yet everything indicates that it is not the whole Army that wanted this tough change. General Gromov, the deputy defense minister, publicly denounced the intervention, calling it a "serious mistake."

[Gorbachev] That is right. The majority of the Russian Army does not agree with these methods because it knows by experience that they do not work. They have been dragged along by the decisions made by incompetent politicians, and consequently they will fight unwillingly, without conviction and without commitment. What makes it even more serious is the price of the war, the number of deaths. When it is over, somebody should be made to pay, but the damage will be irreparable—unless it ends right now and serious negotiations begin, not negotiations with deception and trickery.

[Chiesa] In Moscow there has already been a political earthquake. The democratic Radicals have made a break with President Yeltsin. What will happen now in the relations between the president and Parliament?

[Gorbachev] The Radicals, who understood nothing of what was happening right under their noses, have lost the president. The president has lost the support of the people. They are now on opposite sides of the barricade, objectively speaking. The government is no longer looking at these people who have lost all popular prestige. The partial elections held this month demonstrate this spectacularly. The government wants to save itself, catch its breath, and survive. To do this, it has to show a tough hand and prove that it is strong enough to create fear. I do not deny that this can be used to persuade some people, or to frighten them. However, for the majority of the Russian people it will not wash. On the contrary, it will be counterproductive, simply because the Russians have no desire to fight to force Chechnya to stay in the Federation. Only one way would have worked: persuade it. And to presuade it, we should have negotiated.

[Chiesa] The West, Clinton, and Kohl have not lifted a finger. They say that it is Russia's "domestic affair." What do you think?

[Gorbachev] I think that the reaction of the other countries of the former Soviet Union is very different and clearly negative. Not because they support Dudayev's demands for independence, but because they are afraid and worried about a Russia which acts in such a glaringly imperialistic manner. There is a natural inclination, which I think is healthy, toward integration with Moscow, but this inclination will be slowed down and knocked back by military intervention. The other republics do not like such an aggressive Russia and will fear that Russia's appetites could grow. This is a very bad precedent. In addition, everyone can see that the armed attack on Groznyy is the sign of a serious crisis in the Moscow government.

[Chiesa] Do you think Yegor Gaydar's concerns are justified? He said that there is a threat to Russia's democracy.

[Gorbachev] Yes, they are justified. I feel that the only way to save the country is to hold a vote for parliament and president immediately. That would be a legitimate way of demanding a new leadership for the country, which is tired of this disorder and these arbitrary actions. However, those currently in charge in the Kremlin know full well that they would lose the elections. They are probably thinking that they must avoid elections at all costs and that they must suspend democracy until the climate has improved for them. The Chechen crisis can also be used for this purpose. There are already very clear signals of authoritarianism. When the telephone lines of Duma deputies who criticize the president start getting cut off, it is already clear what methods are being used by those in control. I have first-hand experience of this. We are sliding toward an authoritarian solution which will have serious international repercussions. I wonder how Western leaders can continue not to realize this.

Soskovets Promises Post-Conflict Aid

LD1312150594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1437 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Dec—After eliminating the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic, the Russian Government will embark on restoring railroads and the functioning of transport. This was stated today in a conversation with journalists by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who is now head of the operational headquarters for coordinating the activity of the federal organs of the executive power.

The first deputy head of government said he is certain that when the armed conflict ends, it will be possible within a week to bring rail traffic back to normal and to restore communications with the republics of the North Caucasus. According to his assessment, it will cost about 1 trillion rubles to neutralize the armed confrontation. At the same time he said that Russia is prepared "to receive refugees and resettlers from the conflict zone." "Forced deportation is absolutely out of the question," he stressed. Oleg Soskovets views the provision of information from Chechnya as unsatisfactory.

Aid Will Revive Economy

LD1312155594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 13 Dec—The Russian Government will allocate 1 trillion rubles to revive the economy of the Republic of Chechnya, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets announced today at an emergency sitting of the government commission for operational issues.

He said that over the last three years, gross and national revenue in the Republic of Chechnya has dropped by over 70 percent, and production of food by over 50 percent. In addition, oil production is down by half. Production of aviation fuel and paraffin has practically stopped. Deliveries of oil products by pipeline have been stopped due to continual theft. [passage omitted]

The resolution adopted by the government pays particular attention to the issue of restoring and rebuilding oil fields so that oil production reaches no fewer than 4 million tonnes by 1997. According to Oleg Soskovets, this will stabilize the social and political situation in Chechnya if a normal political settlement is found to the crisis.

Health Ministry Flies in Medical Supplies

LD1312182494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 13 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 13—A total of 31 wounded persons have been commissioned to the Mozdok-based hospital since September 21, when the hospital was inaugurated. Most of them were transported to the hospital by helicopters from Chechnya, a spokesman for the Russian ministry of public health and medical industry told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

A plane carrying two tonnes of medical supplies and equipment estimated at 47 million USD left Moscow for Chechnya on Tuesday. The above-mentioned ministry undertook the move in obedience to a decree of the Russian government.

On December 15, the ministry intends to fly 3.5 tonnes of medical supplies and equipment estimated at 870 million rubles to Chechnya.

By the end of the year, the ministry will have provided another 4.5-tonne lot of medical supplies and equipment estimated at 1,450 million rubles. Twenty ambulances will have been commissioned to the region.

A total of 135 medical teams, including 30 first-aid ones, are ready to get down to work in the districts which border on the conflict area.

Migration Service Accepts Chechen Refugees

LD1312163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Federal Migration Service (FMS) has begun to accept forced migrants from Chechnya, the FMS media spokesman said.

The service has appointed a committee in Moscow to coordinate the work, Sergey Solntsev told Interfax on Tuesday.

He said seven Russian regions—Astrakhan, Kurgan, Orenburg, Perm, Saratov, Tambov and Tver—were ready to provide provisional accommodation for 2,000 people.

Coordinating committees have also been set up in the Stavropol Territory, seven of whose districts have offered facilities to accept 3,255 people.

Since November, 2,722 families from Chechnya have asked migration services in Stavropol and the Russian republic of Ingushetia for a forced migrant status, according to the FMS.

By decision of the FMS, the Russian republic of North Ossetia, bordering on Chechnya, will be a transit stage for resettlers. A coordinating committee has been opened in the North Ossetian town of Mozdok and a provisional accommodation center for 100 in the republic's capital Vladikavkaz.

Altogether 77,958 people from Chechnya applied for forced migrant status in Russia between July 1, 1992, and November 1, 1994.

Paper Opposes Government Chechnya Methods

MM1412130094 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Nikolay Kishkin under the "View of the Situation" rubric: "A Strong Man Must Be Wise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a great temptation to believe that the strength of power lies in strength. But no, the strength of power lies in reason, in the ability to foresee things. It was this that was lacking when the decision was made to hurriedly send troops into Chechnya. I will venture to maintain that all the possible consequences of this step were not calculated. In order not to become entangled in assessments, we must, above all, separate the aims which the federal power sets itself from the methods which it is using to achieve them.

The reasonable nature of the task of restoring constitutional legality on part of the territory of Russia, where it has been grossly violated, does not give rise to doubt. There is no reason here to argue with the president. No self-respecting state would allow some part of it to disdain all the norms of law and separate itself from it by means of a unilateral act or allow some political forces to overthrow the legitimate power, establish their own, and aspire to persuade people to talk with it as with the power. And yet precisely this happened in Chechnya in 1991.

Whatever they might say in Groznyy, Chechnya was and still is a constituent part of Russia. To acknowledge something different would mean embarking on a path leading to the country's breakup. If Chechnya can do it, why not, for example, Ryazan, Krasnodar, Buryatia, Maritime Kray...? We will have no shortage of people wishing to be the presidents of certain corners of Russia. In this connection historical digressions on the subject of how Chechnya was incorporated into Russia and whether it "wanted" this seem pointless. The process of gathering lands and peoples around Moscow went on for centuries, resulting in the present geopolitical reality—

the Russian State. If we now try to revise history and ask ourselves questions about what Ivan the Terrible did in Kazan, for example, or why Yermak went to Siberia, then it would be simpler to say directly: Let us cut Russia up into pieces and reduce it to the borders of the Principality of Muscovy. It is not hard to guess the threat that this poses to the people of a great country.

Thank God, the separatist sentiments that were beginning to emerge in a number of Russian regions are no longer making themselves felt: The sad (particularly economic) consequences of the Union's breakup made many people think. Chechnya alone continued its incomprehensible existence in a totally unconstitutional field. If there are complaints to be put to the president and the government, it is because they tolerated this unnatural situation for three years. Indeed, the unlawful election of the president of Chechnya in 1991, the creation of its own armed forces, the distribution of weapons to groups of the civilian population, the ignoring of federal elections, the robberies on the main railroad transport line leading to the Transcaucasus, which in the end put it out of commission, the contempt for Russian laws—all this is a far from full list of the things that have destabilized the situation in that region and directly harmed other regions and Russian statehood itself.

But the consequences of the rule established there have also proved disastrous for Chechnya: the rapid collapse of the economy and its criminalization (extending outside the republic), the formation of opposition armed formations and the associated combat clashes, people's deaths. Understandably, this situation could not continue endlessly, and the power, if it really is the power, had to untie this knot. The whole question was **which methods** it chose for this, how skillfully they have been used, and whether they are consonant with the situation. What has happened largely passes all understanding.

There is no denying that any power has the right to use force to defend the constitutional system, but on one condition—if all other methods have been **exhausted**. But, let us agree, this "if" did not exist in this instance. The meeting between P. Grachev and D. Dudayev, the release of prisoners of war, and Groznyy's consent to further talks attested that this path (which included a search for compromises) can and must be taken. The hasty sending in of troops shows that it has been decided to hold the talks—which, incidentally, were already scheduled by then—from a position of strength. But even for this purpose it would, I believe, have been sufficient to concentrate them in rayons bordering on Chechnya.

Further. The troops entered Chechnya without the purpose of that measure being announced—and this was interpreted simply, not only in that republic but also by neighbors: The Army is coming to storm Groznyy, and this, as was clear to everyone, most likely means a sea of blood. Did our military chiefs really not realize that, by acting like this, they would provoke resistance even among those who have no love at all for Dudayev? Not until two days later was it explained to us that it was not planned to storm Groznyy and that the task was merely to isolate it. But it was too late. Our hardware, which had not yet entered Chechnya, was blockaded and burned in Ingushetia, and soldiers were taken prisoner in Dagestan. This was done not by some illegal formations but by local inhabitants, on whom, of course, the Russian servicemen did not fire. In fact, could a different reaction really have been expected? Let us not frighten one another with a new Caucasus war, but if we continue to act so imprudently, still more aggravation in the region cannot be avoided, and this will certainly affect the sociopolitical situation in Russia. Will we really pave the road to peace and democracy with coffins?

There is one more alarming circumstance. It is said that every soldier must understand his own maneuver. All right: If a soldier does not understand, in the last resort he can simply be ordered. It is worse when **society does not understand** what the power is doing. For, after the events in Groznyy on 26 November, the overwhelming majority of parties, movements, and parliamentary factions and practically the entire press advocated the priority of peaceful, political means of resolving the Chechen problem. In these conditions the authorities issued the order to send in the troops, having explained nothing to the public or to the political forces representing it. We did not hear the personal stance of the president and the premier in time from themselves. We make do with comments by aides or texts read out by a radio announcer. This in itself gives extremists—and others—grounds to say that we are moving toward a "police" state. One thing is clear—we cannot fail to express acute alarm at **the power's methods of communicating with its people**.

The talks have now begun in Vladikavkaz. They are far from over. It still has to be decided exactly with whom to reach agreement, at what level, and on what. It is essentially possible at present to discuss within the framework of the working commission only the means of disarmament and the creation of conditions for a constitutional political settlement. The chief thing lies ahead. This chief thing should be sought through the joint efforts of the president and parliament. This was presumably the president's premise when he proposed to the Federal Assembly deputies that he should join the chambers in specifying framework conditions for the talks. But for this, in B. Yeltsin's opinion, it is necessary to define our stand on three points.

First. Does the Russian delegation need to hold talks on the status of the Chechen Republic within the Russian Federation? Is the Federal Assembly ready to make changes to the Constitution with due regard for all the possible political consequences?

Second. With precisely which political forces of the Chechen Republic must talks be held on these problems? The State Duma decree of 25 March 1994 proposes that the executive power only hold consultations. Official talks with Dudayev will require a special decision legitimating the results of the presidential election in the Chechen Republic.

Third. Should the holding of free elections in the Chechen Republic be regarded as a necessary precondition for talks, as stated in Point 2 of the State Duma decree of 25 March 1994? If so, how is it proposed to ensure the holding of free elections in the present conditions?

Yeltsin has proposed that representatives of the chambers participate along with the president's representatives in an observation commission which would assume the function of monitoring compliance with citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms when implementing decisions on restoring the constitutional system on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

Well, such an approach could be welcomed: We have long been in dire need of the power's unity.

Dudin Criticizes Chechnya Media Coverage

MM1512091194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

["Reader's Opinion" by Honored Military Navigator Valentin Dudin: "Are the Mass Media Helping Our Army in Chechnya?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I feel inexpressibly bitter during these December days. When Russian soldiers and officers are dying in the Caucasus under sniper fire from behind the backs of women and children and from the entrances to seemingly peaceful roadside buildings, having no possibility of answering their killers. But what are the Russian mass media doing?

Above all, they systematically tell us what the Groznyy "Napoleon" has said and threatened and what kind of partisan war will develop in the Caucasus to the glory of Shamil [Muslim leader in 19th-century Caucasus war against Russian Empire]. Every day they show two Chechen women with assault rifles marching past Dudayev's palace, and then once again our soldier boys taken prisoner when local residents blocked the roads....

Where is even one minute of television time devoted to the battalion commander who has just lost his men in Chechnya? He would have answers to the narcissistic maxims of sundry know-it-alls.

Yes, the Army is probably the only thing remaining to our great power (now great mainly by virtue of its misfortunes). We are now surrounded only by states whose governments, to put it mildly, do not burn with particular love for Russia but merely substantiate territorial and other claims. When you hear it said in parliament that "we need a very small army," you are amazed. It is time to finally stop shaking the backbone of statehood, for not only ordinary citizens but also the foremen of perestroyka with a skirmish [perestroyka s perestrelkoy] and the comic-strip [chastushechnyy] heroes of MMM will end up beneath the debris of statehood. Enough of the dialogue-free diktat of gasbags who fail to realize that there are no human rights without a person's responsibilities in the society of people. This is understood best of all in the Army. There must always be honor and glory for it in Russia. Particularly when it tackles difficult questions which it did not formulate itself. Such as in Chechnya now.

Press Group on Military Violating Press Rights

LD1412185194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 14—The Russian Foundation for the Freedom of the Press has accused the Russian military leaders of violating the rights of journalists in the Chechen Republic.

In its press release on Wednesday, the foundation said that the Russian military in Chechnya "exceed their powers and inhibits the journalists' objective work" in the conflict zone.

The press release said that the military detained an associated press freelance correspondent, Mikhail Dzhaparidze, on December 11 and confiscated a film he had shot. On December 12, a Radio Liberty Russian service correspondent, Georgiy Papkhadze, was stripped of his accreditation card and recordings and deported from Chechnya. On December 13, Russian troops fired at a car which was carrying REUTER Journalists. They also seized their equipment.

On the same day, a REUTER correspondent, Sean Ramsey was wounded on the outskirts of Groznyy. In addition, Russian soldiers beat up a Russian television correspondent, Roman Babayan, when he was about to take a snapshot of the REUTER car that had come under Russian fire.

The provisional information center of the Russian government said it will take measures to prevent attacks on journalists in Chechnya.

A center representative, Nikolay Martyanov, said that the center will thoroughly study all the incidents that have occurred in the republic and do everything possible to prevent their repetition in the future.

At the same time, he warned that it is impossible to guarantee full safety of journalists and urged them to observe the "rules of conduct and collection of information in the conflict zone."

TV Show 'Pulled' for Dissident View

MM1412124994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Olga Saprykina: "They Did Not Forget To Break the TV"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of Russian TV's most popular shows—"Do Not Break"—failed to air on the RTR channel Sunday. The nonappearance of the program came as a surprise to its presenter Boris Koptev, who was on a trip to Vladimir at the time.

According to Boris Koptev, the show's failure to air was most probably due to the differences in the views of the Chechnya situation held by the program's producers and the TV company management. The program expressed the view that it is wrong for two generals to be deciding the fate of the Russian and Chechen peoples and that a better solution to the problem would be to appeal directly to the inhabitants themselves via a referendum.

But this is just Koptev's assumption. There has as yet been no official explanation from the RTR management as to why the show was pulled. But, in any event, if top management is going to use this kind of censorship in the future, then, in Boris Koptev's opinion, the show may cease to exist anyway.

Agrarians Call To Prevent Press 'Monopoly'

MM1512142594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Open letter from M.I. Lapshin to Russian Federation Government Chairman V.S. Chernomyrdin: "Agrarian Deputies' Inquiry"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Viktor Stepanovich!

Deputies from the State Duma Agrarian faction are deeply worried about the situation which has formed over the "privatization" of the new editorial building at 24 Pravda Street, Moscow.

Judging by the intentions of the "privatizers," who can be assumed to include the chairman of the Russian Federation Government, the enormous 12-story building where the editorial offices of many central newspapers are currently located is being transferred to the foundsing capital of the "Rossiyskaya Gazeta News and Publishing Concern" closed-type joint stock company.

As a result of this unprecedented monopolist action, the editorial collectives of PRAVDA, SELSKAYA ZHIZN, the weekly ZEMLYA I LYUDI, and other newspapers could find themselves homeless. Allowing this to happen would be a gross violation of the rights of hundreds of journalists and editorial and publishing workers, and would mean putting publications which have been read and respected by the people for a long time in an essentially humiliating position by throwing them out onto the street.

I would prefer not to believe that this entire, clearly unlawful campaign was mounted for the sole purpose of putting down objectionable opposition publications.

The Agrarian deputies do not suffer from a politically one-sided attitude or have any special allegiance to any particular mass media, but in this case we are dealing with clear tyranny, which is incompatible with the basic norms of morals and democracy.

We earnestly ask you, Viktor Stepanovich, to prevent the emergence of a new monopoly in the press which does not correspond to either the spirit or the letter of the laws of a genuinely democratic society.

[signed] On behalf of members of the Agrarian faction, M.I. Lapshin

Yeltsin on Special Care of Nuclear Victims

LD1312212294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 13 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Social protection of victims of radiation accidents is a special responsibility of the state, President Boris Yeltsin said today in his letter of greetings to the 2nd congress of the Russian "Chernobyl" union.

The letter says the Chernobyl accident left slow-healing consequences. The president appraises the role of the "Chernobyl" union which is pursuing extensive efforts for five years, showing an example of constructive dialogue between public groups, authorities of the state and local administrations in delivering real help to the victims, the presidential letter says.

Economic Issues

Yasin on Draft Budget, Economy's Prospects

MM1412144594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Yelizaveta Leontyeva: "Yevgeniy Yasin: Duma To Receive Updated Draft Budget. Minister Announces That It Will Be Ready Within the Week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The press conference given by Yevgeniy Yasin can be considered to be his first. Or rather, theoretically his first, because there was another one shortly after he was appointed along with other new "appointees." Many people were interviewed and little information was provided: Perhaps that was why few journalists got together this time, remembering their first meeting? Did they expect something similar? But Yevgeniy Yasin answered absolutely all the questions. And quite frankly, it seemed.

How are things going with the work of the State Duma and Russian Government to seek agreement on the draft 1995 budget? On the eve of the press conference there was a session of the conciliation commission to which the government submitted changes to its policy, to its notion of the budget. Whereas previously there had been a "tug-of-war," now Yevgeniy Yasin believes that the government has in many respects accommodated deputies. Including by agreeing to ban all tax, import, and export concessions in order to boost budget revenue. It also agreed to raise import and export tariffs from 5.6 percent to 7-8 percent on all imports. And the government also agreed to think about reducing domestic borrowing and about other opportunities for reducing the budget deficit.

"As for the Duma part of the conciliation commission," the minister said, "there were stormy debates there, but the bulk of the government's decisions met with understanding. Thus, there is a real chance of the government's submitting an agreed version of the budget to the Duma."

On this basis the Finance Ministry has begun work on the new version of the budget, while the Ministry of the Economy is working on a new forecast for the country's socioeconomic development in 1995.

As for the forecast, the Ministry of the Economy has also made concessions by raising the forecast level of inflation from 2 to 3 percent a year on average and lowering the forecast decline in production to 12-14 percent. (In 1994 production fell 10-12 percent).

The new economy minister is convinced that there will be no recoiling away from reforms. But what will make them develop? Primarily a change in economic conditions. The Ministry of the Economy is the headquarters formulating the government's economic policy and it is assuming the responsibility of rendering this policy favorable to the national economy....

Yevgeniy Yasin believes that this is precisely what he should be doing. Previously he formulated, or was involved in compiling, programs for the government. Having become a minister he is hoping to combine in this post the work of a manager and academic. In his view, there was an abnormal situation when this ministry was considered just a headquarters where economic strategy was formulated while programs were drafted separately. Yasin is convinced that it will now assume both functions. In other words, it will finally become what it was meant to be from the outset.

Before, it was asked, you had a low opinion of the way in which the government supports the commodity producer. But how is he to be supported within the budget framework?

Yasin believes that two phases are emerging within the approach to the national commodity producer. During the first stage it is necessary to secure macroeconomic stabilization and the liberalization of the economy. During this period it is still too early to talk about protecting commodity producers—they are defended by the general measures to restore order in the economy. Later production will require greater attention since we are moving on to a new phase of reforms.

What is meant by greater attention? The minister does not agree with concessions and subsidies. He is convinced that they would be harmful. If there is to be any support, it would be just for competitive enterprises.

The main point is to enlist private investment in production. And to do the utmost to attract the population's savings, "lure" them out from the sock at home, which now seems so reliable. Moreover, lure out not rubles but the dollars into which the people have already gotten accustomed to converting their modest accumulations.

Yasin is convinced that the problem can in many respects be resolved if even one-fourth of these accumulations can be enlisted for the purchase of state securities.

In the minister's opinion, we will not increase budget revenue without tax reform. There are many subtleties involved in this. For instance, the wage fund brings steadier income than value-added tax or profits tax. Thus, considerable change lies in store for us here and this will be reflected in the draft budget.

Inflation Rises to 103.9 Percent

MM1412142794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Prices Continue To Rise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from the Russian State Committee for Statistics, during the first week of December there was a price increase of 103.9 percent for consumer goods and services, including 104.6 percent for foodstuffs, 103 percent for nonfood goods, and 103.7 percent for paid services to the public.

Expert Sees 1995 Stabilization 'Slim'

LD1512150594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, December 15 (INTERFAX)—The economic situation in Russia is now farther from financial stabilization than in early 1994, and the budget deficit of 7.8 percent of gross domestic product, planned for next year, makes the chances of such stabilization in 1995 very slim, Andrey Illarionov, director of the Institute of Economic Analysis, declared at a news conference Thursday.

He stressed that the financial outlays for the military operation in Chechnya and for economic and social recovery "deal yet another heavy blow on any possibilities of financial stabilization." In his opinion, these financial means are "illegal" since they have not gone through the parliamentary endorsement procedure envisaged by legislation.

The use of $13 billion in foreign credits, projected by the government to bridge the budget gap will hike Russia's foreign debt to $130 billion by the end of 1995 and make the country the world's biggest debtor, leaving Brazil behind, and crossing the line "of economic security" in terms of foreign debt volumes.

At the same time, the massive emission of government securities, planned next year will leave national industry without investments since virtually all means available on the domestic market will be used to finance the deficit.

Illarionov looks back at 1994 as a year "lost" for reform, a year when the government failed to exploit opportunities to stabilize finances and reduce inflation. The Central Bank has boosted credit since last spring and expenditures on the state apparatus have risen by 67 percent, during steady prices, while the GDP has shrunk by 15 percent from the previous year.

French Franc Trade Begins on Moscow Exchange

MM1512152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "The French Franc Joins the Dollar and the German Mark"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 14 December trading began to be conducted not only in the dollar and the German mark but also in the French franc on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. On that day 625 rubles were being given for one franc, and eight banks participated in the trading.

The widening of the range of quoted foreign currencies clearly attests to the further development of the Russian currency market. Even though the volume of operations relating to the French franc will hardly be significant, on the one hand this will widen the opportunities of currency market dealers and, on the other, it will promote an increase in export and import operations between France and Russia.

It is interesting that it was initially proposed to start trading in the franc 12 December. The authorities' wrangling over whether or not that day would be a holiday caused the management and clients of the currency exchange quite a few problems. If money had been transferred to participate in trading, but trading had not taken place, the banks could have demanded compensation for the unfounded freezing of their funds.

Therefore there was an active exchange of telegrams between the exchange and the Central Bank at the end of last week. Their contents changed depending on whether or not Constitution Day was going to be celebrated. It is obvious that in this case the authorities' political ambitions prevailed over concern for people, including businessmen. In changing the decision on the holiday, somehow nobody remembered them.

Strategy Calls to Double of Oil Exports

MM1412164194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Igor Ivantsov: "The Russian 'Emirates' Differ From the Arab Emirates in Their Huge Population. This Means That Oil Does Not Enrich Everyone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The volume of Russian oil exports will steadily grow and should double by the year 2010, Vitaliy Bushuyev, Russian Federation deputy minister of fuel and energy, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. In his words, this forecast is contained in the main directions of the Russian Federation's energy strategy, which lie at the basis of the Russian Federation president's edict on Russia's energy policy, currently in preparation. This draft document, prepared by the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy together with a number of other ministries, was recently examined at a session of the Government Commission for Current Questions and given a positive assessment.

Oil is a major strategic commodity, and in the next 10-15 years the bulk of hard currency will come precisely from its export, Vitaliy Bushuyev commented. As of today the volume of oil exports from the Russian Federation stands at somewhere in the order of 90 million tonnes, according to initial estimates. This provides virtually 60 percent of all the state budget's hard currency income.

Military Issues

Commander Lauds Strategic Rocket Forces

MK1312113094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 13 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Non-Stop Around the Clock" rubric: "Such Cheap Missiles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) possess three-fourths of Russia's nuclear arsenal, and personnel numbering the smallest in the Armed Forces, stated Colonel General Igor Sergeyev, SRF commander-in-chief, addressing missile men, scientists, and production people in a conference devoted to the development of the strategic nuclear forces in a changed geopolitical situation.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent on how much money is spent from the budget for the upkeep of the SRF, the commander-in-chief noted that the missile forces are the "cheapest" under today's difficult economic situation. They consume, in his words, as little as 5 percent of the military budget while being able to solve all strategic tasks assigned to them in combat situations. "Our missile systems (both fixed and mobile), far from conceding to foreign analogues in their parameters, even surpass them for the efficiency of their combat employment and survivability."

'Molniya' Satellite Reaches Orbit

LD1512090894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0818 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Dec—The "Molniya-1T" communications satellite launched by the Russian Military-Space Forces (MSF) on Wednesday has been placed in orbit with the following parameters close to the estimated ones: period of revolution - 11 hours 42 minutes; inclination of orbit - 62.4 degrees; apogee - 39.155 km [as received] and perigee 462 km, Ivan Safonov, the MSF press center spokesman, has told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin Signs Military Justice Law

MM1312124594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 94 First Edition p 6

[Russian Federation Federal Law No. 55-FL, signed by President Yeltsin and dated 3 December 1994: "On Certain Questions of the Organization and Activity of Military Courts and Military Justice Organs"—"Passed by the State Duma 21 October 1994. Approved by the Federation Council 17 November 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Article 1. Military Courts

Military courts are part of the Russian Federation legal system, are federal courts, and enact justice in the Russian Federation Armed Forces, other forces, and in organs and formations in which military service is provided for under existing legislation.

Prior to the adoption of the federal constitutional law on the Russian Federation judicial system and the federal law on Russian Federation military courts, the Statute on Military Tribunals shall apply to military courts (as set out in the USSR law "On Changes and Additions to the Statute on Military Tribunals" of 25 June 1980) insofar as it does not contravene existing legislation.

Article 2. Procedure for Military Service in Military Courts and Military Justice Organs

Servicemen at military courts, the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration are serving in the Russian Federation Armed Forces, are part of their authorized strength, and are covered by military statutes and provisions determining the procedure for military service and taking account of the features laid down by the Russian Federation law "On the Status of Courts in the Russian Federation," other normative acts, and this federal law.

Paragraph 8 of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree No. 4983-1 of 19 May 1993 "On Certain Measures Relating to the Execution of the Russian Federation Law 'On the Military Draft and Military Service'" as regards the secondment of military court servicemen to specific military courts shall be abolished.

Until corresponding changes and additions are made to the Russian Federation law "On the Military Draft and Military Service," Article 30 of this law, envisaging the conclusion of a contract covering military service, shall be suspended in respect of judges at military courts and the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium.

Judges at military courts and the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium shall enjoy equal rights and privileges with contract servicemen under the Russian Federation law "On the Status of Servicemen."

Article 3. Material Provision for Servicemen at Military Courts and Military Justice Organs

Monthly remuneration and bonuses for qualification class [kvalifikatsionyy klass] to judges at military courts and the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium, and bonuses for class ranks [klassnyy chin] to servicemen and civilian personnel at military court apparatuses, the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration shall be paid in the amounts laid down by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree of 17 February 1993 "On Certain Questions of the Implementation of the Provisions of the Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Judges in the Russian Federation' in Respect of Judges at Military Courts, Their Material Provision, and Measures To Ensure Their Social Protection."

Monthly remuneration for servicemen and civilian personnel at Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium apparatuses, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration, and military courts shall be set at the level of remuneration envisaged for similar positions at Russian Federation Ministry of Defense main and central directorates, military units, and Russian Federation Armed Forces institutions.

Monthly pay in line with military rank, all annual, monthly, and one-time additional monetary payments, and the payment of all kinds of physical and other payments and provision for servicemen at military courts, the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration, and for civilian personnel at corresponding apparatuses shall be effected on the basis and in the amounts laid down by existing legislation for Russian Federation Armed Forces servicemen and civilian personnel.

Article 4. Funding and Material and Technical Provision for Military Courts and Military Justice Organs

Funding and material and technical provision for military courts, the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration shall be effected out of the funds allocated to the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense from the federal budget.

Financing and material and technical provision, provision of transportation, means of communication, official premises, all kinds of remuneration, the protection of premises, and the storage of archive materials from military courts, the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration shall be effected by the appropriate organs of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense. The Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice Military Courts Administration shall ensure all kinds of remuneration at the level of main and central directorates of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense.

Article 5. Security and Armed Escorts for Persons

Security and armed escorts in military courts for persons held at disciplinary units or under guard at stockades shall be implemented by forces and means of the corresponding military units or military commandant's offices at garrisons.

Armed escorts to the location of the hearing for persons held under guard at other places of detention or in jails and corrective labor colonies shall be effected by forces and assets of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Internal Troops and Russian Federation internal affairs organs.

Article 6. Entry into Force of This Federal Law

This federal law comes into force 10 days after its official publication.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 3 December 1994

No. 55-FL

Federal Assembly

All-Russian Economic Conference Creates Little Stir

WA1412183994 FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE ENEAG

[FBIS Media Note] The central press paid only cursory attention to the 26 November All-Russian Economic Conference. The conference opening was duly reported and Chernomyrdin's speech was texted, but there were no reports of polemics, debates and commentary from noted economists and economic observers either during or after the conference.

The economic conference was first mentioned by presidential aideAleksandr Livshits in a 23 November interview with ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina. She quoted Livshits as saying thatthe conference participants' most important task was to "ensure a positive turning point in the economy and outline ways for financial stabilization." He mentioned this again in his announcement of the congress opening in the 26 November issue of ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI. Noting that the "ultimate task" for congress participants was to"identify the paths toward financial stabilization," Livshits added that "the country's leadership is pinning great hopes on the results of the present forum." Livshits predicted that "the discussion promises to be turbulent."

Approximately 600 participants heard speeches from Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, Federation Council chairman Shumeyko, Duma chairman Rybkin and representatives from the regions, banks and enterprises. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA'S 29 November edition carried Chernomyrdin's address. In the same issue correspondent Vladimir Kucherenko provided summaries of other speakers' presentations. The draft budget for 1995 was the main subject under discussion and each speaker had his own ideas about what sphere of activity should be financed and what could be sacrificed.

Kucherenko concluded his wrap up of the speakers by noting that Yeltsin's closing speech "tried to reconcile opponents and smooth over differences." Lyudmila Biryukova, commenting on the conference in ROSSIYSKIKYE VESTI on 29 November, agreed: "It looks as though a limit had been set to the seemingly endless confrontation between the president, government and parliament." There was no "outbreak of parliamentary anger" Biryukova added, and concluded that the "businesslike tone of the talk at the conference made us forget for a while our society's politicized nature. Especially as no one from the opposition asked to speak."

But Vitaliy Golovachev, writing in the 29 November issue of TRUD, pointed out that "there were a lot of general views and, I think, not enough analysis of specific ways to solve our current highly acute problems." His overall assessment of the conference was mixed. Stating that "a great deal was expected of the most representative and large-scale economic conference of recent times," Golovachev concluded that "these expectations were not fully borne out." He admitted that the conference was "partially successful" in demonstrating broad support for the reform process, but wondered if "this short event" would serve to convince the government's opponents and the dissatisfied population. "Was it rational" he asked, "to have republican and regional leaders converge and to convene such busy people just to hear a few speeches?"

State Duma Issues Resolution on Chechen Conflict

LD1412142194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—We are transmitting the decision adopted by the State Duma on Tuesday [13 December] "On the situation in the Chechen Republic, a subject of the Russian Federation, and measures for its political settlement":

Expressing serious concern in connection with the continuing bloodshed in the Chechen Republic, gross violations of the Russian Federation Constitution, Russian laws and the rights and liberties of citizens, and taking into account the fact that the situation that has come about begins to threaten the vital interests, state security, unity and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation as well as stability and peace in society, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation resolves:

1. To deem the work of the Russian president and the federal bodies of state authority for a political settlement of the explosive situation in the Chechen Republic as unsatisfactory.

2. To request the Russian president and the Russian Government to use all the political and legal measures and means available to them to stop the armed confrontation in the Chechen Republic and to prevent illegal armed formations and weapons from penetrating the territory of the Chechen Republic and beyond its borders, to restore law and order and ensure citizens' rights and liberties, and to render the necessary humanitarian and economic assistance to the population of the Republic.

3. To examine the Russian Federation president's proposal that the Russian Federation Federal Assembly's State Duma should adopt a resolution declaring, on the basis of the Russian Federation's law on criminal procedure, an amnesty for persons who took no part in serious crimes against the civilian population and who by 15 December 1994 voluntarily lay down their arms in connection with the change in the situation.

To agree with the Russian Federation president's proposal that State Duma deputies should take part in the work of the monitoring commissions controlling the restoration and observance of the citizens' constitutional rights and liberties, legality and law and order on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

To proceed here from the fact that the territory of the Chechen Republic is an inalienable part of the territory of the Russian Federation, on which the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation law should apply in full measure.

4. To appeal to the opposing sides in the Chechen Republic with the proposal that they put an end the bloodshed and tackle all existing problems by exclusively peaceful means, form all branches of power of the Chechen Republic through the free expression of the will of the citizens of the republic in accordance with the constitution of the Russian Federation and other laws of the Russian Federation, and hold elections of deputies of the Federation Council and deputies of the State Duma on the territory of the Chechen Republic.

5. To instruct the State Duma committee for legislation and legal reform and the State Duma security committee to prepare proposals on the possibility of sumitting amendments to the constitution of the Russian Federation which provide for the establishment of control on the part of the bodies of legislative (representative) power over bringing normative legal acts adopted by the executive power in line with Russian Federation legislation.

6.To invite the leaders of the components of the Russian Federation in the North Caucasus region to display statesmanship, restraint, and calm in settling questions connected with the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic.

7. To consider the peace-making actions of individual deputies, factions and groups of State Duma deputies, carried out by them on the territory of the Chechen Republic without corresponding instructions from the State Duma, to be their own personal initiative.

[signed] I. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Rejects 'Emotional' Proposals

LD1512103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 15 December TASS—The lower house of the Russian federal legislature today voted against Ella Pamfilova's proposal for the entire deputy corps to suspend the session and travel to the conflict zone in the Chechen Republic.

Only 73 out of the house's 450 deputies supported this proposal coming from a former representative of the Russia's Choice faction.

The Duma also voted against the proposal put forth by Yabloko's Tamara Zlotnikova who called on all women in the house to "begin an action of protest against the war in Chechnya" and demand that Russia's president and prime minister appear before the house without delay. Only 118 deputies voted in favour of this motion, even after Russia's Choice's Lev Ponomarev's emotional call to "devote the entire session today to the situation in Chechnya" and summon Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin and representatives of official Groznyy before the Duma.

The returns of the voting may have been influenced by Speaker Ivan Rybkin's insistent calls to avoid fanning confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power, "calm down and begin normal work," as well as "not to try and supplant the president and the government" (probably a reference to the ill-fated preceding parliament disbanded by Yeltsin last year).

Text of Duma Decree on Amnesty in North Caucasus

MM1412165594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[State Duma Decree No. 386-I GD, signed by State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin, dated Moscow, 13

December 1994, and carried under the headline "Amnesty!": "On the Proclamation of Amnesty for Persons Who Have Participated in Illegal Actions in Connection with Armed Conflicts in the North Caucasus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to national reconciliation and the achievement of civil peace and accord, and in accordance with Point "f" of Part 1 of Article 103 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees:

1. Not to institute criminal proceedings against persons who have committed illegal acts in connection with participation in armed conflicts in the North Caucasus, who are not implicated in serious crimes against the lives and health of citizens, and who have voluntarily laid down their arms.

2. To discontinue all criminal cases which are being prosecuted by organs of inquiry and preliminary investigation, and cases which have not yet been heard by courts against the persons indicated in Point 1 of the present decree.

3. To exempt the persons indicated in Point 1 of the present decree from undergoing criminal punishment.

4. Not to extend the effect of Points 1-3 of the present decree to:

a) Persons who have committed crimes covered by Articles 66, 77, 79, 102, 103, 108, 117, 146, 191-2, 206 Part 3, 213-3, and 240 Point "c" of the RSFSR Criminal Code;

b) Previously recognized especially dangerous repeat offenders.

5. To expunge the convictions of persons exempted from punishment on the basis of Point 3 of the present decree.

6. The present decree comes into force on the day of its official publication and is applied according to the procedure envisaged in Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree "On the Procedure for Applying the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree 'On the Declaration of an Amnesty for Persons who Have Participated in Illegal Actions in Connection with Armed Conflicts in the North Caucasus.'"

[signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[dated] Moscow, 13 December 1994

No. 386-I GD

State Duma Approves Draft Law on Constitutional Rule

LD1412143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 14 TASS—The State Duma has approved the first reading of the federal draft law on general principles of the organisation of bodies of state power in subjects of the Russian Federation.

The draft law endorses fundamental principles of the constitution of the Russian Federation which are mandatory for bodies of state power of subjects of the federation.

The law envisages that subjects of the federation may establish one of the two kinds of a republican form of governing. The first one is the so-called parliamentary form, when the executive power is exercised by the government formed by the legislative (representative) branch of power. The presidential form of government envisages that the government (the administration) is formed by the head of the subject of the federation.

The draft law envisages the existence of both forms of the organisation of the system of bodies of power in subjects of the federation.

Duma Commission To Examine Oil Spill Aftermath

LD1412163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syktyvkar December 14 TASS—A Russian Parliament commission has sent a task force to Russia's northern Komi Republic to examine causes and aftermath of a recent series of breakdowns at a major local oilpipe in the Pechora river basin. The task force, consisting of State Duma members, is headed by Mikhail Danilov from Duma Committee for Natural Resources. Russian nature ministry [as received] officials, headed by deputy nature minister Viktor Kostin [name and title as received], also came to the place.

It is planned that Moscow officials will dig into reasons for delaying repair and rehabilitations works at the Vozey-Usa oilpipe.

The cleansing of the polluted area, totalling to over 540,000 square metres in size, goes on very slowly. Less than 10 per cent of the area has been cleansed in about two months. Only 27 out of planned 52 kilometers of a new oilpipe, meant to replace the damaged one, have been constructed in full. Despite efforts of many supervising commissions which have visited the area since the last breakdown, regional agencies in charge of repair works lack funds to pay employees and subcontractors and purchase supplies and equipment. One of them, the Komineft, has so far failed to get 100- billion-rouble credit which the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry promised to grant for the purpose.

Duma To Invite Yeltsin to Debates on Army Problems

LD1512111794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15—The State Duma intends to invite Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is the country's supreme commander-in-chief of the armed forces, to participate in forthcoming debates on army-related problems.

Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the Russian parliament's lower house, unveiled the move on Thursday.

An extraordinary meeting of the State Duma is scheduled for December 22. The lawmakers are expected to focus on discussing defence expenditures specified in the 1995 draft federal budget.

Regional Affairs

Chechen-Georgian Border Said Secure

LD1412132894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Captain Jamal Inalashvili, the head of the press center of the Russian border troops, has ruled out the possibility of any militants getting to Chechnya across the Chechen-Georgian border. He told INTERFAX that the Georgian border troops have reinforced the protection of the Chechen-Georgian border. It is now being patrolled by small mobile groups of border guards.

Troops Will Be Deployed in Kazakhstan 'Temporarily'

LD1412124694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to General Alibek Kasymov, Kazakhstan's first deputy defence minister, Russian military bases will not be sited in Kazakhstan. Instead of them, Russian army units will be temporarily deployed in the republic.

As Kasymov revealed in an interview with Interfax, an agreement on these units status is currently "being drafted". He explained that the sides need "to determine the jurisdiction and tasks" of these forces on their guarantee of the two countries security.

Yegorov: No Storming of Groznyy Before 15 Dec

LD1412165294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The time limit set by the Russian president for illegal armed formations to lay down arms voluntarily expires this night. In accordance with the president's appeal, those who lay down arms will not be held criminally responsible. In connection with this, according to Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov, there will be no storming of Groznyy before 15 December.

As regards the use of Russian aviation, its actions are directed [break in reception] I quote, against Dudayev's armed outposts. According to Yegorov, neither Groznyy nor other Chechen settlements are under fire.

But Groznyy itself says the opposite. According to Movladi Udugov, head of the information department, the Chechen capital was bombed again today.

[Begin Udugov recording] Five aircraft bombed Groznyy, carried out three missile strikes against the village of Pervomayskiy. Fifteen houses are on fire and 20 people have been killed, mainly Russians. The village of Pervomaiskiy was bombed all through the night [break in reception] by aircraft. About four aircraft bombed the prison for young offenders in the village of Dolinskiy, the detention center for young people. The number of casualties is unknown there. [end recording]

Troops Resume Movement Toward Groznyy

LD1512125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 15 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—Units of the Northern Group of Russian troops resumed their movement toward the Chechen capital from the direction of Tolstoy-Yurt village at about 1400 Moscow time today, the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the headquarters of Dudayev's armed forces.

According to the same source, a tank force shielded by air force and long-range artillery is moving toward Pervomaykskaya village, which is 13 km northeast of Groznyy. Artillery explosions can be heard in the city. Neither side has yet used infantry weapons.

According to the Chechen state security department and the Chechen intelligence department, the Northern Group of Russian troops is the most powerful of all the forces which have entered the republic.

Troops Continue To Tighten Blockade

LD1512083594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—Today is the deadline for the laying down of arms by the illegal armed groups, set by the Russian president. However, the situation in the Chechen republic continues to be extremely tense. On Wednesday [14 December] night Russian troops continued to tighten the blockade around Groznyy. The opposing side was offering fierce resistance.

According to the official Russian sources, on Thursday morning Interior Ministry troops and army units of Russia were holding positions north of Groznyy near the populated localities of Chervlennaya and Pervomaiskaya. The advance of another group, which is approaching Groznyy from the side of Ingushetia, was hampered by strong fire, and the troops had to suppress fire positions of Dudayev's supporters.

According to the information of Dudayev's staff, the fighting near Pervomaiskoe with the use of artillery and air force stopped last night. A cannonade was clearly heard at the ITAR-TASS office in the evening.

At about midnight ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy Sharip Asuyev managed to find out from a physician on duty at the Achkhoy-Martan district hospital, that the wounded Russian helicopter pilot was in a grave condition, but his life is out of danger. In order to save the life of Sergey Devyatkov, 24, his leg had to be amputated. Blood donors from among the local population helped the Russian officer, who lost much blood. Devyatkov's helicopter was brought down on Wednesday morning by fighters of the emergency volunteer corps, who used automatic weapons. Two other crew members died.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov said in Mozdok on Wednesday that by the end of the day Russian troops were concentrated 10-15 km away from the Chechen capital and closed the blockade around it. He said again that after December 13 "the Russian Air Force was used for suppressing Dudayev's armed posts" and stressed that "troops were moved to Chechnya not for waging a war against the Chechen people, but for liberating them from the Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime."

"Force will be used against those who do not obey the president's decree on disarmament, and gangs will be destroyed," Yegorov warned.

Prospects of a dialogue between the two opposing parties, started in Vladikavkaz on Monday, remained vague on Wednesday. On that day the talks were interrupted, and the Chechen delegation left for Groznyy at night. Commenting on the departure of Dudayev's representatives, the Russian side explained it by the need for "taking a break during the work" and for "consulting their superiors." in his turn, Chechen Prosecutor-General Usman Imayev told ITAR-TASS: "Our delegation was put in a position, in which the only way for us was to break off the talks." Contrary to the Russian Constitution, the Chechen side refuses to acknowledge the fact that the Chechen republic is a subject of the Russian Federation and demands the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic before the disarmament of armed groups begins.

Surround Groznyy Despite 'Heavy Fighting'

LD1512095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15—The Russian Government said on Thursday [15 December] that despite heavy overnight fighting the Russian troops will surround the Chechen capital of Groznyy today leaving only the southern part of the city open so that foreign mercenaries could escape.

"The units of Interior and Defence Ministries continue to fulfil the task of blockading areas adjacent to Groznyy. Russian troops have entered the outskirts of Groznyy from the northern and western directions and have occupied the dominating heights. Today the units moving from the east will reach the same positions. The southern direction is not being blocked so far to provide a possibility for armed units from the near and far abroad to leave the combat area", the press service of the Russian Government said in a statement.

Chechnya borders on Georgia and Azerbaijan in the south.

"The Russian servicemen are resolute to fulfil the tasks set in the decree of the Russian president on restoring the constitutional lawfulness and ensuring safety of the population on the territory of the Chechen Republic", the press service added. Yeltsin had instructed the government "to use all means at its disposal" to fulfil his decree.

On Thursday the deadline to the Chechen warring sides to surrender arms expired, but the government said heavy fighting took place overnight. It admitted there were new casualties among the Russian military, but said their number is being specified.

"According to reports from the command of the Russian Interior and Defence Ministry units, the Russian servicemen have repelled overnight numerous attacks of illegal armed units. Both sides used armour, artillery and grenade launchers in the fighting. Air Force units of the Defence Ministry delivered a strike late on Wednesday on the Khankala airfield near Groznyy where L-39 aircraft reequipped as bombers were preparing to take off. Some thirty planes were destroyed. Besides, nearly ten infantry vehicles and other armour of the illegal armed units were destroyed in the fighting", the press service said adding that Chechen government forces use the "attack-retreat" tactics and hide themselves behind civilian population which impedes retaliation.

Troops Ordered To Seal Off Groznyy

LD1412204094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Dec. 14 (INTERFAX)—Russian troops had reached the outskirts of Groznyy by 19:00 Wednesday [14 December]. They have been ordered to seal the city off on the morning of December 15, military sources in Mozdok, Northern Ossetia, told Interfax.

The sources say that the advance of the Russian troops halted as dusk set in. Camps were made. Sorties of helicopters and fighter jets have also ceased.

The sources denied reports of aircraft firing rockets and bombing Groznyy suburbs and said that the aircraft had orders to neutralize the firing positions of Dudayev's supporters.

Chechnya Demands Troop Withdrawal as Condition for Talks

LD1512141794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Dec 15 (Interfax)—Chechnya's secessionist regime said it was ready to resume talks with Moscow "at any time" provided "Russian troops stop hostilities and are withdrawn the territory of the Chechen Republic."

"Unless those conditions are met negotiations will be useless," Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev told Interfax on Wednesday.

In his opinion, mediators should be invited to the talks, among whom he mentioned a Lithuanian "goodwill mission" that the Baltic country's parliament has decided to appoint and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

Talks conducted over the last few days in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia, by a Russian Government commission and a Chechen delegation were suspended on Wednesday, the Chechen negotiators leaving for Groznyy to consult their government.

The Chechen Government is due to consider the resumption of talks on Thursday [15 December] afternoon.

Chechen Official on Possibility of Resuming Talks

LD1512112094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 15 TASS—The talks in Vladikavkaz on a settlement of the situation in the Chechen republic have been suspended temporarily. The leadership of the republic is considering the advisability of resuming them, Chechen Prosecutor-General Usman Imayev told ITAR-TASS on Thursday [15 December].

The leadership of the Chechen republic is firmly convinced that "the problem can and must be resolved only by peaceful means. Attempts to speak with Chechnya in a language of force are futile".

"As long as Russian troops stay on the republic's territory and Russian aircraft massively rocket and bomb Chechen towns and villages, it is too early to speak about a sober-minded approach to this or that matter under discussion at the talks," Imayev said.

"The Chechen side did everything possible to promote a normal negotiating process but the Russian delegation, by insisting on the obviously unacceptable and legally untenable conditions, put the negotiations on the verge of being frustrated," Imayev said.

The talks in Vladikavkaz ground to a halt due to the Chechen side's refusal to recognise Chechnya as a Russian Federation subject and because of Chechnya's demand for the withdrawal of Russian units from the republic before disarmament begins.

Chechen Official on Offer of Talks

LD1412185994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] No doubt you have heard the official Russian position in the Ekho program, but now we will add the viewpoint of the other side. Chechen Deputy Foreign Minister Ruslan Chimayev is in Moscow. Our correspondent Vladimir Varfolomeyev talked to him by telephone on possible ways of settling the conflict.

[Begin recording] [Varfolomeyev] One of the main stereotypes connected with what is happening in Chechnya is that Groznyy does not intend to hold talks and insists on resolving the problem only by force. Is this the case in reality?

[Chimayev] In reality this statement is, of course, absurd. One cannot think that the people in Groznyy and Chechnya are so mad that they think they can inflict a military defeat on a great power like Russia. It is just like what happened in 1939 when it was announced that Finland had attacked the Soviet Union and this pretext was used to unleash the Finnish War.

Groznyy has been proposing talks. As a representative of the foreign minister I can state with full authority that literally every quarter we sent Moscow plenty of proposals about a treaty between the Russian Federation and Chechnya. By the way, the draft treaties were much more loyal to Russia than the draft treaty on Tatarstan within the Russian Federation.

But in Yeltsin's entourage there are people for whom it is not advantageous for the crisis to be ended peacefully. It is advantageous for some people to unleash a war and gain the reputation of a victor. That is what is tragic.

[Varfolomeyev] What you have said is a revelation to me. I did not know that Chechnya had proposed to Russia a treaty like the Tatar treaty.

[Chimayev] No, not like the Tatar one, but a treaty in which Chechnya was more loyal than Tatarstan in all respects to the Russian Federation. But it had one proposal—that the treaty to be concluded should be one with equal rights. That is, that we should be recognized as subjects of international law. In every other respect—we proposed a common economic space, a common financial space, common currency, common citizenship, common foreign policy, common defense—on virtually all points we were more loyal even than any Russian oblast on what we agreed to sign with Russia.

[Varfolomeyev] So why did Moscow not agree?

[Chimayev] There is a deep suspicion that there exists a war party among Yeltsin's entourage, and it was in their interests to prevent Yeltsin learning of our proposals. We tried many times to get through, but we did not manage it. The mass media continuously reported: Dudayev said this or Dudayev said that—that Chechnya wants to fight, and so on—quite absurd things. We well understand that Chechnya cannot fight Russia, and we also understand that we must not drive Russia into a corner; and both of our sides have today driven themselves into a corner. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Talks To Resume

LD1412160394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chechnya's governmental commission hopes that all problems pertaining to the settlement of the Chechen conflict will be settled peacefully, leader of the Chechen delegation Taimaz Abubakarov told Interfax in Vladikavkaz on Wednesday [14 December] after an interval was announced in the talks to give time for the Chechen delegation to consult with the Groznyy leaders.

Abubakarov said that there is no doubt concerning Chechen representatives' intention to return to the negotiating table for continuing talks.

Deputy leader of the Russian delegation Aleksandr Asmolov said that the dialog in Vladikavkaz may be resumed on Wednesday evening, following the receipt of official instructions from Groznyy.

Earlier on Wednesday, leader of the Chechen delegation Taimaz Abubakarov had made an official statement. He said that the Russian leadership had been dodging talks during the last three years, "unilaterally narrowing possibilities for a peaceful settlement to the Chechen problem."

"Unfortunately, the arsenal of the Russian leadership had no other methods of tackling this problem but a comprehensive isolation of the Chechen Republic from the external world, the destabilization of the internal situation and the introduction of armed forces to its territory," says the statement.

The document also says that the main issue of the talks—"the termination of bloodshed" in Chechnya, initiated by "Russia's military intervention against the Chechen Republic remains unsettled."

The interval in the talks has been announced because the situation in Chechnya has changed, all of which necessitates an additional analysis, stated Abubakarov.

Chechnya Negotiations Said 'Likely To Be Renewed'

LD1412204994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Dec 14 (Interfax)—"Groznyy did not reject the idea of negotiating with Russia completely but suspended the talks with the Russian delegation in Vladikavkaz. The talks are likely to be renewed," Chechen Prosecutor General Usman Imayev told Interfax this evening.

He said he believed that the parties must primarily discuss the "settlement of political relations" between Moscow and Groznyy.

"The Chechen delegation has the authority to discuss all political issues except those which must be resolved by a nation- wide referendum," Imayev said. He said that the issue of applying the Russian Constitution in Chechnya, on which Russia focused during the talks, must be discussed at a referendum.

He said the referendum on adopting the Russian Constitution had not been held on Chechen territory and thus the Chechen delegation did not have the authority to discuss the issue.

Imayev said he had received a "favorable impression" after the first round of the talks in Vladikavkaz. However, the Chechen delegation did not have the authority to decide on some of the issues raised by Moscow and the talks were suspended, he added.

Groznyy Delegation Instructed To 'Drag Out' Talks

LD1412173894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1626 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Pasko, our special correspondent at the Provisional Information Center, has brought us some news.

[Pasko] Well, you know, I have just received some very curious news which answers at least some of the questions which are worrying us and are connected with an understanding of the situation, what is happening now in Chechnya. Nikolay Yegorov, deputy prime minister of the government of the Russian Federation, has reported that the deadline for handing over weapons by the illegal bandit formations has been fixed for 15 December. There will be no storming of Groznyy before then. Well, as you can see, what will happen after the 15 December is still not clear. Yegorov met members of the public of Mozdok region.

And some more curious information. As a spokesman of the Provisional Information Center from Mozdok has reported, sub-units of the interior troops of the Russian Federation MVD [Interior Ministry] and Defense Ministry today approached within 10-15 kilometers of Groznyy. At the meeting with the public of Mozdok region, Yegorov noted, in particular, that none of the Russian servicemen had taken up weapons against the peaceful population. The Russian servicemen were forced to carry out retaliatory firing against Dudayev's illegal armed formations. To a question as to who should bear responsibility for the fact that Dudayev had been supplied with a considerable quantity of arms, and that Dudayev's power had been turned into a criminal one, Yegorov replied that the reason for this was merely the cowardice of those—I quote—who were in power at the time.

According to Yegorov, Groznyy has not been subjected to bombing since 26 November. Yegorov also rejected reports that Russian aircraft had sustained losses. We have lost only one helicopter, the deputy prime minister said. It was shot down today, at 1300, in the region of Novyy Sharon. This helicopter was not carrying out a battle task but was delivering food to servicemen of the Russian Army.

And one more curious detail. It concerns the reasons why the talks in Vladikavkaz are being dragged out. One of the members of the official Groznyy delegation—he preferred to remain anonymous—said the following: We have received only one instruction from Groznyy—to drag out the talks by any means. The present "time-out", he said, was taken since Dudayev's nervousness in a search for a way out of the situation had been transferred to the members of the delegation. Vladimir Pasko, from the Russian Government Provisional Information Center.

Chechens Refuse To Continue Talks

LD1512085994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0830 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to INTERFAX, authorities in Groznyy today refused to continue talks on a settlement of the conflict in Chechnya. In connection with this, the Russian delegation is returning to Moscow from Vladikavkaz. President Dzhokhar Dudayev's statement on his readiness to wage a total war has been made public in Groznyy.

Yegorov: Troops To Free Chechnya From Dudayev

LD1412190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) December 14 TASS— Commenting on the walkout by the Dudayev delegation of the talks in Vladikavkaz, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Yegorov said the delegation's "demands remain the same—that Russia carry out dialogue with Chechnya as an independent state".

"We will never agree to it", Yegorov stressed, addressing on Wednesday [14 December] the public of North Ossetia's Mozdok District. He pledged "here will be no territorial repartition in Russia".

According to the deputy prime minister, Russian troops massed 10- 15 kilometres of the Chechen capital are presently completing its blockade.

Yegorov recalled that December 15 was set by the Russian president as the deadline for illegal armed formation in Chechnya and the Ingush-Ossetian conflict zone to lay down arms. "Force will be applied to those not abiding by the presidential decree on disarmament, while bandit formations will be destroyed", he noted.

The vice-premier said since December 13 Russian aircraft "have been used to destroy Dudayev armed posts". He emphasised that "troops have arrived in Chechnya not to fight the Chechen people, but to free it from the Dudayev rule". Yegorov described the present-day Chechnya as "a criminal state-territorial entity".

The deputy prime minister said he would stay in Groznyy as the Russian president's representative for the Chechen Republic after Russian Interior and Defence Ministry troops crushed illegal armed formations in the breakaway province. Administrative bodies will be gradually created in Chechnya, and general elections are scheduled for next spring, Yegorov reported.

Russian Helicopters Launch Attack on Chechen Village

LD1412182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Dec 14 (INTERFAX)—Helicopters launched a missile attack on Pervomaiskaya Village in Chechnya where the main fighting took place between the Russian troops and the troops of Dzhokhar Dudayev today, the Chechen Armed Forces Chief Headquarters told Interfax at 17:30 today.

The same source said that many houses had been destroyed in Pervomaiskaya which is situated about 20 kilometers northwest of Groznyy. The same source said there had been casualties as a result of the missile strike.

The same source said that 40-50 civilians had been killed in Chechnya as a result of military actions during the last three days. Independent sources did not confirm this information to Interfax.

The same source said that the Russian troops launching an offensive on Groznyy had failed to get closer to the Chechen capital today.

He said Dudayev's troops had subjected Russian military vehicles accumulated near the populated centers of Pervomaiskaya, Tolstoy- Yurt and Assinskaya to fire from Grad rocket launchers. Groznyy does not have information on casualties among Russian servicemen.

The same source confirmed that a military helicopter had been shot down during a missile attack on the populated center of Shaamiy-Yurt which is situated about 40 kilometers west of Groznyy today. Two of the helicopter's pilots were killed. The third pilot was wounded, his leg cut off. The wounded pilot is Sergey Diamitskiy, a 24-year senior lieutenant. He is now in a hospital of the Achkhoy-Martan Village.

The same source said that volunteers from several Russian regions and Ukraine continued to arrive in Groznyy. He voiced the hope that Groznyy would receive more volunteers as a result of the mobilization declared by the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples on December 14.

Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin told residents of the Mozdok Region of North Ossetia today that Dudayev's troops had really brought down a Mi-8B Russian helicopter. He said that after the helicopter had landed its two pilots had been "literally torn to pieces by local residents."

Stepashin said the helicopter ought to deliver food to a military unit and had not been carrying a military task.

Civilians Killed in Air Raid

LD1412152094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] About two hours ago Russian aircraft shelled the capital of the Chechen republic with rockets. According to information from Groznyy at least 20 civilians have been killed.

Ingushetian Official on Security Situation, Russian Convoy

LD1412124894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The past night in Ingushetia (a North Caucasus republic within Russia) was relatively quiet, Adlof Oskanov, chief of the Ingushetia Interior Ministry's task force, reported to an Interfax correspondent.

At the same time, according to his information, at about 3:00 Wednesday [14 December], at the intersection of the Yandyrk-Karabulan (Ingushetia) villages on the Rostov-Baku highway, a brawl, involving guns, erupted between drunk servicemen. One servicemen was killed, two others were wounded.

A convoy of about 100 armored vehicles proceeded from North Ossetia (a North Caucasus republic within the Russian Federation) toward Atskhoi-Martan Wednesday morning.

There were civilian casualties as a result of yesterday's fighting in the Assinskaya village.

More than 10 injured civilians have been admitted to the Central Hospital of the Sunzhenski area, according to the local governor Aleskhan Pliyev.

Moscow To Site Mobile Hospital in Ingushetia, Near Border

LD1412125294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Health Ministry will set up a mobile army hospital in Ingushetia's Sunzhenskiy area, bordering Chechnya, tentatively on December 15 to provide additional surgery facilities in field conditions, mainly for civilians. Lieutenant-General Valeriy Vostrotin, a Russian deputy minister for emergencies, reported in an exclusive interview with Interfax that the main problem is the delivery of injured persons.

He said that the Ingush government had agreed in principle with the Chechen side on the issue. "We also agreed with the Interior troop commander that the military will allow our cars to pass without hindrance. We are now working out how to practically solve the problem of evacuating the wounded," Vostrotin explained.

He also reported that surgeons and anesthesiologists are to arrive by plane from Moscow later on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the press-service of the Ministry for Emergencies reported to Interfax that two IL-76 transport planes (one with a mobile hospital and five tonnes of medicines, the other with 30 tonnes of food) are on their way. A third IL-76 with 30 tonnes of humanitarian relief on board is ready to fly on Wednesday.

Dagestan MVD Urges Calm, Avoidance of Second Caucasian War

LD1412144094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Dec 94

[Report by Marina Kovaleva, correspondent in Makhachkala, on the situation in Dagestan]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the fact that on 11 December, Russia's MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and Defense Ministry troops entered our neighboring republic, the leadership of the Dagestan MVD has appealed to Dagestan's citizens urging them to make an objective assessment of the existing situation and to abstain from jumping to hasty conclusions, to stay calm and wise as is proper to mountaineers, not to be influenced by those who, with their words and actions, push people unconsciously toward waging a second Caucasian war. In the existing situation Dagestan's interior bodies are fulfilling their duty of protecting public order. Jointly with the Federal Counterintelligence Service, border guard troops, and customs service subunits, measures are being taken to prevent illegal armed formations penetrating Dagestan's territory from the Chechen republic, to stop imports and exports of firearms as well as assistance to Chechen refugees.

Chechen Wounded Being Treated in N. Ossetia

LD1412181294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz, 14 Dec (INTERFAX)—As many as 32 wounded inhabitants of Chechnya are staying in North Ossetian hospitals, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the North Ossetian Health Ministry.

A total of 25 people are undergoing medical treatment in Vladikavkaz hospitals and seven in the central district hospital of the city of Mozdok.

Well-informed sources have told Interfax that Russian servicemen are being given first aid at military hospitals in Mozdok and Vladikavkaz. After that they are sent to other regions of Russia.

Chechnya: Russian Armor Advances From Terskiy Mountains

LD1412205694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Dec. 14 (Interfax)—Russian troops mounted a tank attack on the positions of units loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev near the village of Pervomayskaya, northwest of Groznyy, Wednesday [14 December] night.

According to the Chechen headquarters, about 100 armored vehicles made a battle formation and descended from Terskiy Ridge.

In that area the Russian units are opposed by the supporters of Ruslan Labazanov, former opposition leader who defected to Dudayev. There was no independent confirmation of this report.

Officers in the headquarters also said that the Russian units were also preparing for an assault from Dagestan in the east where special armored units of the Russian Interior Ministry were moving to the forward line.

Chechen Council Leader: Demand To Disarm 'Impossible'

LD1412205994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1954 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 14 (Interfax)—Russia's demand to start disarming "illegal armed formations" in Chechnya is impossible to meet, because "not a single Chechen will lay down his dagger" until a peace treaty is signed, the chairman of the Chechen Supreme Elders' Council, Seid Ahmad Azizov, told journalists Wednesday [14 December].

Azizov and the Chechen supreme mufti, coordinator of the Supreme Religious Council, Mohammed Alsabekov, brought to Moscow a demand "on behalf of the people" to stop bloodshed and military operations in Chechnya, since only after this peace talks could be possible.

The envoys intended to meet the State Duma leadership, government officials and top clergymen. Earlier this afternoon, they were received by the chairman of the State Duma committee for defense, Sergey Yushenkov.

Azizov told journalists that Russian soldiers could "possibly seize Groznny, but not subjugate the people" recalling the fact that in Chechnya "there were nice gorges."

Azizov ruled out the possibility of talks with the Chechen opposition. He said not a single constitution envisioned that "gangs should be maintained talks with."

Attack on Russian Interior Units Near Chervlenoe

LD1412160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok. December 14. INTERFAX—On the night from December 13 to December 14 detachments of Russian Interior Forces stationed near the populated center of Chervlenoe (to the north of Groznyy) were subjected to an attack "of armed fighters who used armored vehicles," the Mozdok-based press service of Russia's Interior Ministry reported to Interfax. According to the source, the bandits "acted in accordance with the tactics proclaimed by Dzhokhar Dudayev, 'assault and withdrawal'."

An employee of the press center reported that all attacks by the fighters were repulsed without any losses among Interior forces. The source reports that "guided by humanitarian principles, Russian servicemen carried Dudayev's fighters from the battle field, risking their lives, and brought them to field medical hospitals."

According to the press service, the Interior forces are continuing their march towards Groznyy "retaining the seized positions and repulsing attacks of the armed bandit formations which use the Grad multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), artillery, and small arms and are mining the roads."

The press center of the Russian Interior Ministry in Mozdok pointed out that Dzhokhar Dudayev continues accepting mercenaries from western Ukraine, Baltic republics, and other areas.

Obstruction of News Reporting in Chechnya Criticized

LD1412155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1438 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec—Today the Russian Foundation for the Protection of Glasnost has accused the Russian military authorities of violating the rights of journalists in the Chechen republic.

As the foundation's report received by ITAR-TASS says, the Russian military in Chechnya "are exceeding their powers and obstructing journalists' objective work" in the conflict zone.

According to the foundation's information, on 11 December in Chechnya, Mikhail Dzhaparidze, a freelance correspondent of the American news agency Associated Press, had the film he made confiscated. On 12 December, Georgiy Papkhadze, a correspondent of the Radio Free Russian Service, who had been forced to surrender his accreditation documents and audio recordings, was expelled from Chechnya. On 13 December, a motor vehicle carrying Reuters correspondents came under fire from the Russian military. Their equipment was confiscated. On the same day, in the suburbs of Groznyy, Reuters correspondent Sean Ramsay was injured slightly. In addition, the Russian military beat up Vesti correspondent Roman Babayan when he tried to film the Reuters vehicle that had come under fire.

The provisional information center of the Russian Government said today that it is prepared to take measures to prevent attacks on journalists working in Chechnya. Nikolay Martyanov, the center's representative, has assured journalists that the center will thoroughly analyze the incidents and will do everything in its power to prevent the recurrence of such actions.

At the same time, Martyanov warned that it was not possible to guarantee complete safety for journalists in Chechnya and called on the press to comply with "the rules of behavior and of collection of information in an armed conflict area."

Foreign Ministry Denies Use of Chemical Weapons in Chechnya

LD1412190494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1522 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec—In an ITAR-TASS interview, a high-ranking spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry categorically denied claims by the Chechen parliament, which declared today that Russian troops "are using needle bombs [igolchatye bomby] and chemical weapons, and are also opening fire on refugees."

"This bears absolutely no relationship to the facts," he emphasized.

Dudayev Headquarters Cite Russian Air Attacks

LD1412185794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1722 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 14 Dec—According to an announcement from Dzhokhar Dudayev's headquarters, the Russian Air Force attacked Chechnya's towns and villages with missiles and bombs throughout Wednesday afternoon and continued to do so during the evening hours.

The town of Gudermes was subjected to an air raid at 1750. At about the same time, four low-flying attack aircraft bombed the settlement of Braguny in Gudermesskiy rayon. Slightly earlier, the village of Pervomayskaya a few kilometers north of Groznyy was raided with missiles.

In the Chechen capital, several buildings were enveloped in flames after today's raid. The nearby settlements of Khankala and Michurin suffered missile strikes from the air. There is no precise information about casualties. At the same time, the headquarters maintains that 20 people were killed in Pervomayskaya village by the missile and bombing raids and by the shelling from long-range artillery, and there are many wounded. Four people died and 10 were wounded in the settlement of Braguny.

Toward 1800, according to Dudayev's headquarters, land battles were in progress near the settlement of Vinogradnoye in the Nadterechye area and also along the line of the settlements of Tolstoy-Yurt, Pervomayskaya, and Dolinskiy, as well as in other northerly sectors.

Appeals to Islamic Summit for Help

LD1512141894 Rabat MAP in English 1325 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec. 15 (MAP)—President of Chechnya Dzhokhar Dudayev sent to participants in the 7th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference a message to draw their attention to the plight of Chechen Muslims caused by the Russian army bombings.

According to the Russian TV, the Chechen president asked for the summit support and the Muslim community assistance to the Chechen people in these difficult moments of its history.

Russia considers the Chechen crisis as a domestic affair and warns against any foreign interference.

Dudayev Says Aslyum Not Needed, Family Remains in Groznyy

LD1512132994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 15 Dec—Dzhokhar Dudayev's press office confirmed today that he had received an invitation from the Tartu [Estonia] authorities to stay in that town with his family if he finds himself endangered.

In reply to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the press office representative said this: "Dzhokhar Dudayev expressed his gratitude to the Tartu authorities for their concern and asked them not to worry and not to make any decisions since he does not need any political asylum or any refuge."

"Dudayev was, is, and will be together with his people, whatever fate is awaiting Chechnya," the press office officials said.

He denied any claims by some of the Baltic media that Dudayev's family had left Chechnya and is now in one of the Baltic countries. "The president's wife, Alla, and their nine-year old son Degi are staying with their relatives in Groznyy, while the eldest son Alur is in one of the detachments getting ready to fend off the possible storming of Groznyy," the official said.

Dudayev to Hold News Conference in Groznyy Today

LD1512151894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1452 GMT 15 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is expected that Abubakarov, leader of the Chechen delegation at the Vladikavkaz talks and Chechen minister of economics and finances, will hold a news conference in Groznyy today at 1700 Moscow time. After that Dudayev is expected to hold a news conference at which he will state his official stand on continuing the talks, RIA agency reported. We will keep track of events.

Air Attacks on Groznyy, Other Areas Denied

LD1412190594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1723 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 14 Dec—Military sources directing Russian Air Force raids have assured an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Mozdok that the Air Force did not attack either Groznyy or other inhabited localities in the Chechen Republic today.

Throughout the day, Air Force planes and helicopters took steps to provide air cover for the columns and subunits of Russian troops that had entered Chechnya, and also attacked Dzhokhar Dudayev's weapon emplacements inside Chechnya. It was stressed that not a single one of the republic's inhabited localities had been attacked.

Government Press Service Reports on Chechnya Actions

LD1412202394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the government of the Russian Federation today distributed an information report that says:

"Subunits of the internal troops of the Russian Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry continued fulfilling tasks involving the blockading of individual areas of the Chechen Republic where the situation is most tense as a result of the actions by illegal armed units.

"Several subunits that were fulfilling tasks they were set, including repair work and clearing roads of mines, were subjected to attack. Returning fire to suppress weapon emplacements was hampered by the fact that the attackers, as a rule, were acting under the cover of dwelling houses and outbuildings.

"Today there was a tragic incident involving a Mi-8 transport helicopter, which was delivering a humanitarian cargo, including food and medicines for the inhabitants of a remote settlement. The helicopter was fired on at a distance of 20 km from Groznyy in the area of the settlement of Navyy Sharon from a heavy machine-gun mounted on a car. Two pilots were killed, the third, injured in the foot, succeeded in landing the damaged helicopter. A few minutes later International Red Cross ambulances and an automobile with foreign journalists arrived at the place where the transport helicopter had made a forced landing. One of the cameramen filmed a scene that revealed the true meaning of the phrase 'illegal armed units' which has become familiar: The injured pilot was kicked onto a stretcher."

Tatarstan Democratic Council Protests Chechen 'Occupation'

LD1412210294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1954 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan, Dec 14 (Interfax)—The coordinating council of the national-democratic organizations of Tatarstan (a republic within Russia) sharply protested "the occupation of Chechnya by Russian troops."

Twelve Tatar national movements signed a statement saying that Tatar volunteers would "join fighters for freedom with weapons."

The coordinating council demanded that the Russian troops be withdrawn from Chechnya immediately and that Ichkeria (Chechnya) be recognized as a sovereign state.

The statement of the twelve national movements said that the occupation of Chechnya was "only a part of the Russian imperial global policy aimed against the Moslem world as a whole."

Government Condemned for Provoking War in Chechnya

MK1412112094 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Muratov: "The Country's Incumbent Leadership Will Be Put on Trial for the Reckless Adventure in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Prehistory: Struggle Under a Dirty Rug

Chechnya has become a tool for Kremlin officials to display their loyalty to the sick nose [Yeltsin].

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA is in possession of facts suggesting that a story has gained currency in the Yeltsin apparatus that in mid-November at the Moscow Praga restaurant, Dudayev's close associate Firzauli allegedly said: "I fell short by one briefcase of buying Shakhray's entourage." Furthermore, rumors were circulating in the Kremlin about Shakhray's acquiring a villa in Cyprus and holding bank accounts in Istanbul banks. As a result of such "compromising material," Shakhray was banished, and Chechnya became the domain of two former buddies: Filatov and Zavgayev. [passage omitted]

Why Chechnya Is So Important to the Russian Mafia

According to information in NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA's possession, fake bank orders from Chechnya were used to draw approximately 600 billion rubles. Of this 600 billion, only 40 billion returned to Chechnya. The rest ended up in the capital of our Motherland, the hero city of Moscow. Russia and its corrupt officials used Chechnya as a free crime zone.

When the "think tank" decided to support the opposition, Yeltsin was made to cough up 150 billion rubles in pensions and wages. According to Provisional Administration chief Chuktayev, however, "We have received a mere 40 billion." Where is the remaining 110 billion? It was placed with one Russian bank and was used to buy armored equipment in Russia. On 9 September the first train of "humanitarian aid" arrived for the opposition: tanks and armored personnel carriers. True, absolutely worn-out and incomplete. Moreover, the armored personnel carriers were from the arsenals and designed for the border troops. According to information in our possession, Yeltsin reprimanded the best defense minister of all times and nations [speaking of Grachev, but recalling Stalin]: "Stop selling border troops equipment."

The Military Aspect

[passage omitted] The senseless, bloody plan to return Chechnya, which has long been living independently, will certainly fail. I think: Is an illusory state integrity more important than the "integrity" of the lives of 20-year-old soldiers? Moreover, untrained soldiers. In 1994 the Defense Ministry did not appropriate a kopeck for combat training. In the past two years there not been a single division-level game....

As far as I know, General Staff specialists tried to dissuade the country's leadership from the army operation. They failed. The view by the interior troops command gained the upper hand. [passage omitted]

Ambitions

Nothing so excites an official as the wish to gain favor with his superior or cover up the results of his former "loyalty." When they say that the Russian divisions' mandate in Chechnya is to destroy heavy weapons, I understand: They must be destroyed so that nobody will know where they came from; conceal their markings, and cover up all traces. When Ilyushenko, who has been left in his position as prosecutor only by presidential grace, says: "The Prosecutor's Office cannot assess the actions by officials implicated in the November-December 1994 events in the Chechen Republic," I understand that it is very convenient not to have to find out from special services in Lubyanka (here, in Moscow) who ordered them to recruit mercenaries. It is convenient not to interrogate the Air Force command (also in Moscow) about who ordered the Su-27's to take off. Authority defends itself. The authorities are left nothing but sullen silence and the hope for victory. Victors are not judged.

They are.

For not going to the negotiations themselves, sending minor officials in their place. For fighting each other, using the army. For forgetting: The president and his entourage are only highly placed officials hired by the people, who were never mandated to unleash a terrible war.

Pervomayskaya in 'Ruins', Nine Reported Killed

LD1512084694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hostilities between Russian troops and the home guard at the Chechen village of Pervomayskaya finally ended at two in the morning. According to INTERFAX, Russian armored vehicles withdrew to their initial positions. Earlier, Russian troops subjected Pervomayskaya to artillery fire throughout the day, because Chechen tank formations had been concentrated there. The village has been turned into ruins. According to Groznyy, nine bodies of villagers were brought to the Chechen capital's central square yesterday, while a rally in support of President Dudayev was being held there. The local population is hiding in cellars and hastily built shelters. In Groznyy, Russian aircraft bombed the outskirts. Several aircraft standing on the Chechen capital's training airfield were set ablaze by helicopter fire.

Use of Chemical Weapons in Chechnya Denied

LD1512092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 15 TASS—A representative of the Russian Defence Ministry today categorically refuted assertions of the Groznyy authorities that Russian Armed Forces use chemical weapons in

Chechnya. Russia strictly adheres to the international convention banning chemical weapons, of which Russia is a signatory, General Stanislav Petrov, chief of forces of radiation, chemical and biological protection of the Russian Armed Forces, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday. He said chemical weapons had not even been used in the war against fascism.

"No one in Russia would order the use of chemical weapons, and all provocative statements about their use are just absurd," General Petrov said.

Allegations that Russian Armed Forces use in Chechnya kinds of weapons banned by international conventions were contained in an address which, according to an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Groznyy, was sent by the Chechen parliament on Thursday to leaders of the Russian parliament and of parliamentary factions. In this connection Chechen parliamentarians proposed that observers be sent from Russia to Chechnya.

Quiet Night in Chechnya; No Weapons Surrendered

LD1512105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1018 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy December 15 TASS—Although the deadline set by the Russian president's decree for the surrender of weapons in Chechnya expires today, not a single gun was reported to have been handed over. Guns were silent last night and on Thursday [15 December] morning. Occasional cannon shots were heard coming from the positions of Russian troops stationed in the area of the village of Tolstoy Yurt.

Reports which came from Dudayev's headquarters said that the situation in the area of confrontation remains unchanged. Formations of the Russian Interior and Defence Ministries are stationed near the Chechen settlement of Davydenko to the west of Groznyy and the Daghestani village of Gamiyakh in the east. The Rostov-Baku highway is blocked by pickets staged by local residents outside the city.

Officers are talking to the population, trying to persuade them to remain calm. Last night Groznyy television showed a Russian general approach a group of protesters, talk to them and give one of them some validol pills.

The situation appears to be calm in Groznyy, but tension remains high. There are fears among the population that the city will be stormed. Chechen Armed Forces are preparing to rebuff a possible attack. The city military commander, Ilesa Arsnukayev, has ordered to collect portable radios for Chechen armed formations. The population is handing over to people's self-defence units foodstuffs, clothes and medications.

A rally in support of President Dudayev continues outside the presidential palace. Participants are chanting slogans in defence of freedom of the Chechen Republic. The public utilities service and the city transport operate as usual.

Extraordinary Session of Chechen Cabinet Imminent

LD1512115694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1130 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mayak Radio has just received news from its correspondent at the Russian government's provisional information center. Imayev, procurator general of the Republic of Chechnya, informed the Russian Government delegation at the talks in Vladikavkaz that today, at 1500, an extraordinary session of the Cabinet of Ministers will be held in Groznyy to discuss the question of imparting all necessary powers to the Chechen delegation. This was reported by a spokesman of the temporary information center from Vladikavkaz.

According to Imayev, this procedure will enable the talks to be conducted more productively. [passage omitted]

Mobilization in North Caucasus Said 'Illegal'

LD1512120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Government's press service today sent ITAR-TASS the following statement:

"The head of the Russian Federation Government's press service, acting on instructions from the Russian Federation Government, pointed out that the setting up of so-called 'mobilization points' on the territory of the Chechen republic and other regions of the North Caucasus is illegal and inadmissible.

"A mobilization and the call-up to active military service are put into effect only and exclusively by a decision of the president of the Russian Federation."

Russian Delegation Member Still Hopeful Regarding Talks

LD1512130294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the provisional information center has reported from Vladikavkaz that Aleksandr Asmolov, deputy head of the Russian Government's working commission on talks, has made a statement.

The leadership of the Russian delegation and most of its members are in Vladikavkaz. Asmolov stressed that, if official Groznyy expressed an intention to continue with the talks, they can begin immediately. The decisions that can be made at the Dudayev government's emergency meeting starting in Groznyy today allow one to hope for this. Asmolov believes that there still is a chance to settle the situation in the Chechen Republic by peaceful political means.

Mikhaylov To Wait for Groznyy Reply—Talks To Continue

LD1512125994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladikavkaz, 15 Dec—"Part of the working commission of the Russian Federation government is still staying in Vladikavkaz. We are to continue the talks," Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russian deputy minister for ethnic and regional policy, who heads the Chechen crisis talks commission, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

"We will wait for Groznyy's reply as to whether the Chechen working commission will be able to return to Vladikavkaz to continue the search for a way out of the crisis situation. The Russian delegation has information to the effect that in Groznyy, the Chechen president will discuss the results of the difficult three- day dialogue between the Russian and Chechen commissions. In the North Ossetia capital, all the services involved in the negotiation process are fully prepared."

As the ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned, the people who departed for Moscow were mainly deputies of the State Duma and the Federation Council. Vyacheslav Mikhaylov; Aleksandr Asmolov, his deputy; and Vadim Pechenev, deputy head of the directorate of the president's administration for work with the regions as well as the expert group, stayed in Vladikavkaz.

Today, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov met Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the parliament of North Ossetia and Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the temporary administration on some of the North Ossetia territories and Ingushetia. In the course of the talks, under discussion were issues connected with the existing situation and the possibility of continuing the dialogue between the Russian Federation and Dudayev's representatives.

Kozyrev: Tomorrow 'Too Late' for Groznyy's Chance at Talks

LD1512143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Murmansk, 15 Dec—"If Groznyy fails to use the chance it has been given, tomorrow will be too late," said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The head of the foreign diplomatic department, elected Duma deputy from the Murmansk Oblast, met here with journalists today.

"The Chechen leadership still has time to admit unlawfulness of their actions and to begin peace talks with the Russian authorities," the minister said.

He regretted that force had to be used to solve the Chechen problem and that "because of excessive ambitions" of the repubic's leaders, innocent civilians as well as Russian servicemen are dying in the North Caucasus.

Andrey Kozyrev stressed that Dudayev's demands for independence "do not stand up to any criticism." Chechnya, the minister said, "is an integral part of the Russian Federation, and all its relations with the central powers must be tackled by peaceful, constitutional means." It is precisely in this way, he said, that problems arising with all other subjects of the federation are tackled.

"But if General Dudayev's extremist group has decided to affirm its authority in the republic with the aid of tanks and rocket launchers, then bringing it to its senses requires action with the aid of no less dread weaponry."

The minister pointed out that Chechnya "has indeed been turned into a free crime economy zone," where "are based bandit gangs and narcotics mafia from where the weapons trade throughout the country is conducted."

"Here criminal elements not only of Chechen but of other nationality as well live a life of ease," the minister noted.

Yeltsin Speech on Chechnya Expected in 'Near Future'

LD1512142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Dec—ITAR-TASS has learned that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will make an address in the near future in connection with the events in the Chechen Republic.

Defense Ministry Denies Groznyy Bombings

LD1512155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1511 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 15 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—The Defense Ministry has sent the following statement to ITAR-TASS today:

"The press and information department of the Russian Defense Ministry declares that reports in certain mass media on intensive bombings of Groznyy that have allegedly taken place are false. Russian planes have not bombed the Chechen capital. They merely took adequate retaliatory measures against the weapon positions of illegal armed formations."

Groznyy Defiant, Russian Troops Unprepared for Assault

MK1412120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev under the "Situation in Chechnya" rubric: "People in Groznyy Are Not Afraid of Assault"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite claims by the Russian authorities that Groznyy is completely sealed off, those staying in the city do not have the impression of being under siege. Journalists cross the "frontline" unimpeded, just like local residents. Uninterrupted communications between Groznyy and Dagestan are intact. An eyewitness of the goings-on, KOMMERSANT-DAILY's special correspondent Dmitriy Kamyshev, reports.

Observers in Groznyy are gaining the impression that actual authority rests not with Dudayev, but with field commanders, who categorically reject any concessions to Moscow, let alone disarmament. Unlike volunteers, who are ready "to crush the occupiers," they are more realistic in their assessments of the situation, saying that they will not be able to repel an assault on Groznyy, but that they are going to fight to the bitter end—so they do not appear to be bluffing when they threaten to spill a sea of Russian blood. There is no panic in the city in connection with the possible assault, and it seems that the city's defense capabilities have actually grown with the passing of time. Yesterday members of Islamic youth organizations started setting up "mobile detachments" to carry out terrorist attacks at sites where Russian troops are deployed, including outside Chechnya. So far they have been restrained by Dudayev's state security service, but its representatives told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that in case of an assault on Groznyy they will cast off responsibility for actions of the young "radicals."

So far the conclusion is unconsoling for Moscow. It seems that if the troops start shelling the city so as to force its defenders to disarm, this would only add courage to those who are still wavering and prompt hitherto neutral citizens to join volunteer units. If the army stays put at Groznyy's gate for a long time, however, it cannot be ruled out that the servicemen would simply refuse to attack the city. If an Internal Affairs Ministry colonel refused to move farther in Dagestan upon seeing a crowd of women and children in front of him, compulsory service soldiers who surround the city will be all the more impressed by the sight of "mothers," crying and occasionally bringing them food.

In Vladikavkaz, talks continued between a Groznyy delegation and representatives of the federal authorities. In the morning, the Chechen delegation agreed to disarmament and recognized the federal Constitution. After telephone consultations with Dudayev, however, it changed its mind. Delegation chief Taymaz Abubakarov said that provisions of the Chechen Constitution should also be taken into account, and urged a troop withdrawal as a precondition for starting disarmament. According to the National News Service, Vadim Pechenev, member of the Russian delegation, did not rule out direct talks between Dzhokhar Dudayev and Boris Yeltsin or Viktor Chernomyrdin. [Article includes the following boxed commentary by Political Department]

The progress of the Chechen operation has been refuting Pavel Grachev's previous statements day in, day out. Understandably, the issue is not one single airborne regiment which would have allegedly been enough for the minister to seize Groznyy. Moreover, for as long as three days an army which, according to Grachev, is ready "to fulfill any missions that might be assigned to it," could not even fully seal off Groznyy. This is probably attributable to blunders made by those who planned the operation and their misjudgment of the current state of the army. The troops turned out to be unprepared to act against the civilian population in an effective manner and, possibly, one can talk about their moral disarmament even at this stage. This is proof of the fact that the most important kind of preparations for combat operations—psychological training of the personnel—was effectively nonexistent. Meanwhile it has long been known that it is the cadres that make a difference. The army's line of conduct in Chechnya has elicited fears that the Russian Armed Forces appear to be no longer capable of carrying out any more or less serious operations.

Journalist Describes 'Patent Idiocy' of Chechen War

MM1412155794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "In the Filthy Trenches of War"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khasavyurt-Moscow—[Passage omitted] We sheltered from the wind with a group of enlisted men and officers behind the nearest armored personnel carrier. The enlisted men carried on monotonously digging trenches in the midst of the boggy plowed field. The officers asked me: What can be heard there, out in the "wide world"? How do people in Moscow view this whole campaign? Why did the president decide to move the troops forward before the term of the ultimatum had expired and before talks?... I replied with generalities since I myself would like to know the answers to these (and other) questions.

Some officers said: "Could you put a business proposition to the president on our behalf—let him and all his comrades-in-arms come here and spend a couple of days in the trenches. It is very good for thought out here in the wilds. He might find a normal solution to this sordid affair more rapidly."

Shots can be heard from the mountains on Chechen territory. The enlisted men pay no attention to them but the officers urge the soldiers to dig trenches with greater vim.

All the subunits that have entrenched themselves in a circle in the empty field can be clearly seen from all sides. But they can be seen particularly well from the Chechen border. One "Grad" launcher with a well-aimed shot could catch virtually the whole unit. But I would like to believe that it will not come to that....

However, local inhabitants are extremely determined and are refusing pointblank to allow the troop convoy onto Chechen territory. They are not set at rest even by assurances that in this sector there are no plans for convoys to advance on Groznyy and that the task is just to seal off the border and the highway. But given the present "improvisation" who can guarantee anything?

I distributed relatively recent newspapers among the enlisted men—they are virtually entirely cut off from life here. I noted down their home telephone numbers in order to telephone their relatives on my return to the editorial office and reassure them a little at least. I took with me their crumpled envelopes containing letters....

During the evening, as dusk was falling, we flew out by Internal Troops helicopter. This outpost, which has dug in, looks even more alone and bleak from the air. We refrained from talking about what we had seen at the Internal Troops operational headquarters—I would not like to distress the already weary soldiers. Especially since this headquarters had a friendly attitude toward the press unlike many others and provided real assistance without telling cock-and-bull stories about the difficulties of the situation.

All the other headquarters are preoccupied with the arrival of forces and weapons, the flood of which has noticeably increased. Aircraft are landing one after the other, unloading hardware and people. Ground-attack aircraft are taking off in pairs heading for Groznyy, bristling with predatory missiles and bombs.... "The establishment of constitutional order" is patently gaining momentum and this activity is noticeably cheering lofty chiefs. Middle-echelon officers are not displaying joyful enthusiasm. One medical officer told me bluntly: "We are waging an unjust war here—on our land against our own people. I would do better to resign than sully myself with it. But I cannot as a medical officer. My duty is to save these boys whom the politicians are sending under fire through their own ambition or crassness."

More and more guys are indeed falling under the bullets. They arrive at the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters hospital and the Burdenko Hospital every day. But it is extremely hard to establish a precise figure for the fatalities and wounded since anonymous generals are trying to hide this information (and everything else!) from the press. They obviously do not want the public to know what this "constitution-rattling" is costing the country and how many lives must be sacrificed in order to replace one undesirable politician with another desirable one.

....We spent the night in the hospital tent, having laid the stretchers on the ground. We did not take off our clothes but covered ourselves with everything that came to hand; however it was still dreadfully cold. Aircraft constantly roar overhead. During the night over 60 aircraft carrying equipment and men are scheduled to land. Forces and weapons are still being built up.

I could not sleep owing to the noise, the cold, and the patent idiocy of it all. Rain pattered on the roof of the tent. I tried to imagine the enlisted men in those frozen trenches—this night is even more interminable for them.

But what will the dawn bring?

Spokesman Denies Reports of 'Heavy Losses' in Chechnya

MM1412163394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Dec 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Valentin Sergeyev, Leader of the Russian Federation Government's Press Service: Attacks on Troops Could Wreck the Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the information being disseminated by certain news agencies on the fighting in the region of the Dolinskiy center during the night of 12-13 December and the allegedly large lossess incurred by Internal Troops and subunits of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the following was reported to Valentin Sergeyev, leader of the government's Press Service, from the scene of combat operations:

The reports of large losses do not tally with reality. In actual fact, on Monday [12 December] afternoon subunits of MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops and of the Russian Defense Ministry were subjected to intensive armed attacks by illegal pro-Dudayev armed formations using Grad systems, tanks, artillery, grenade launchers, and other kinds of offensive arms.

On Monday [12 December] evening Dudayev's armed detachments were scattered and thrown back by forces of MVD Internal Troops with the active support of Defense Ministry subunits. The pro-Dudayev formations' combat hardware was destroyed.

Between 0100 and 0400 hours on 13 December Internal Troop and Defense Ministry subunits were again attacked by pro-Dudayev forces with a total strength of more than 1,000 men in the region of the population center of Chervlenaya, 14-15 km from Groznyy. Armored hardware, artillery, and Grad systems were once again used during the attack by these formations. By 0400 hours the forces of subunits of MVD Internal Troops and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry had decisively put a stop to all attempts, and Dudayev's detachments had been scattered and had pulled back toward Groznyy. As pointed out in information received by the Russian Federation Government Press Service directly from the scene of the attack, there were no losses last night among servicemen of Internal Troops or subunits of the Russian Defense Ministry.

At dawn pro-Dudayev forces began new attempts to destabilize the situation—attempts that were successfully repulsed.

It is pointed out that armed formations of the Chechen opposition are not participating in combat operations.

It is alarming, Valentin Sergeyev commented on this information, that the instances of massive attacks by Dudayev's illegal formations might influence the course and the results of the talks which were continued this morning in Vladikavkaz, where the question of an immediate cessation of the bloodshed is the first point to be discussed.

N. Ossetia Leader Sees 'Seed of Discord' With Chechnya

MM1512145594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Interview with Professor Georgiy Kozayev, first deputy chairman of the North Ossetian Government, by Ivan Boltovskiy in Vladikavkaz; date not given: "This War Is Being Won Above All by Russophobes"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the North Ossetian public have adopted an appeal regarding the Kremlin's actions in relation to Chechnya. It says, in particular: "Irresponsible politicians and adventurists wearing generals' shoulder boards have taken it into their heads to resolve the difficult situation in Chechnya by forcible methods, without having used civilized means and dialogue to this end...."

Unusually harsh words have been directed toward Moscow. What does the republic leadership think about what has been said? I met with Prof. Georgiy Kozayev, first deputy chairman of the government.

[Boltovskiy] Georgiy Safunkayevich, the Russian leadership has fouled up, as I understand it?

[Kozayev] The Chechen problem is being resolved by the wrong methods. For three years politicians have closed their eyes to it and have let things go completely. Now they have suddenly encountered a whole host of conflicts, without having any idea of how to overcome the disaster.

[Boltovskiy] Maybe somebody is interested in heightening the tension?

[Kozayev] There are these "somebodies" in both the Caucasus and Russia. When I say Russia, I mean primarily Moscow. Why the need to send a horde of troops into North Ossetia? Taking advantage of the fact that the city of Mozdok and Beslan airport are inside the state of emergency zone, they have completely ignored us. It is not the voice of an offended official talking in me. The seed of discord has been sown: The Chechens have formed the opinion that we have given the "thumbs up" to the Russian military's use of our territory. Such a suspicion could have arisen in some Ossetians.

[Boltovskiy] If a conflict flares up, does that mean that somebody wants it to happen?

[Kozayev] Some people are trying to expand the influence of Islam, of the Muslim world. Dudayev has stated that he is outside Russia, and certain forces have seized on this and are trying whip up anti-Russian sentiments. Others want to use Chechnya as a wedge to break off the North Caucasus from our state. Yet others are pursuing narrow clan aims and are fighting for power. A consolidation is currently taking place in the soil of growing anti-Russianism.

[Boltovskiy] Is Russia's loss of the North Caucasus a realistic possibility?

[Kozayev] Not at the moment. Kabardino-Balkaria, Dagestan, and our people do not want to live separately from Russia. What happens tomorrow depends on Russia. The Kremlin must understand that it is impossible to get established in the Caucasus by force. Our peoples do not forgive anybody for injustices. Dudayev has survived only thanks to Moscow's grossest errors.

[Boltovskiy] Does it not seem to you that dragging the Army into the Chechen conflict is reminiscent of well-known scenarios whereby it was used to whip up hatred toward Moscow and to bring about the Union's collapse?

[Kozayev] Those who are now attacking the Army leadership are adding fuel to the fire willy-nilly and setting the Caucasus against Russia. Matters of state are not decided by soapbox politics. Yushenkov, Yavlinskiy, and Gaydar are not thinking about the state. Or they do not know what they are doing. Why did they keep quiet when Dudayev was arming himself? Why are they demanding an investigation into the Army's participation in the Chechen quarrels but not explaining who gave arms to Dudayev? What, is only Russia to blame for everything?

So now they have brought troops into Chechnya. I can imagine how the Duma will come down on the military. Why has it effectively removed itself from resolving the conflict?

[Boltovskiy] Perhaps the Army, like Russia as a whole, has become a hostage to third-rate politicians.

[Kozayev] Neither Grachev nor Yerin would have made a fuss had they not received the appropriate orders.

Moscow Delegation Plans To Leave Vladikavkaz

LD1512094794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz December 15—The Moscow-Groznyy talks on a peaceful settlement in Chechnya will hardly resume as the Chechen delegation has not shown up in Vladikavkaz so far and the Russian negotiators are planning to return to Moscow today.

TASS learned from sources in the Russian delegation that it is planning to leave the North Ossetian capital for Moscow on Thursday [15 December].

As it became known to TASS from reliable sources, head of the Chechen delegation Taimaz Abubakarov had informed Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev late on Wednesday on the results of negotiations.

The Russian delegation has been expecting Groznyy negotiators for a whole night, but to no avail. On Wednesday a "technical break" was announced at the talks as the Chechen delegation said it needed to consult its leadership.

Chief Russian negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhaylov contacted Russian special envoy for Chechnya Nikolay Yegorov, who is currently staying in the North Ossetian city of Mozdok on the border with Chechnya, and informed him about the situation.

Ossetia-Ingushetia Conciliation Body Requested

MM1412141594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Decree No. 279-1 SF "On the Conciliation Commission," signed by V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council, and dated 6 December 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federation Council decrees that:

The president of the Russian Federation shall be asked to set up a conciliation commission involving representatives of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and the Federation Council to formulate a new version of the Russian Federation Presidential Edict "On Introducing a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic," including Deputies A.V. Dolgolaptev, V.M. Adrov, R.S. Aushev, A.Kh. Galazov, and I.Ye. Gladkov from the Federation Council.

[signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[dated] Moscow, 6 December 1994

Yeltsin Edict To End Ossetia-Ingushetia Emergency

MM1412141394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2168 "On Amendments to the Russian Federation Presidential 2 December 1994 Edict No. 2145 'On Introducing a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic,'" signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 9 December 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the recommendations voiced by the Federal Assembly Federation Council during the ratification of Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2145 of 2 December 1994 "On Introducing a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic" I decree that:

1. Point 11 of Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2145 of 2 December 1994 "On Introducing a State of Emergency on Part of the Territories of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic" shall read as follows:

"11. In December 1994 the Russian Federation Security Council shall hold a session at which it shall formulate and examine, with the participation of Ingush President R.S. Aushev and North Ossetian President A.Kh. Galazov and mindful of the proposals made by the Federal Assembly Federation Council, a series of measures to further stabilize the situation in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone naming specific timeframes and senior officials as well as steps to prepare the conditions for the abrogation of the state of emergency."

2. The present Edict comes into force from the moment it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 9 December 1994

Zhirinovskiy To Run for Governor in Nizhniy Novgorod

MK1412125094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian, No. 63, 11-18 Dec 94 (signed to press 13 Dec) p 8

[Report by Vladimir Ionov in the "Duel" column: "Zhirinovskiy Has Accepted Nemtsov's Challenge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] and its Duma faction is ready to contest the post of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast governor. This was announced by Nizhniy Novgorod newspaper LENINSKAYA SMENA, well-posted about LDPR affairs.

Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy] decided to occupy a key seat in a major Russian region not all of a sudden but by the force of circumstances. First, he wanted to make his ideas about saving Russia known to the broad masses of Nizhniy Novgorod residents through city and oblast representative power bodies, which were contested by 16 of his "falcons" in the 27 November repeat elections. The party provided them with powerful support, sending not only its leader to take part in the election campaign but also his closest associate, Kashpirovskiy. These trips ended in a scandal between Zhirinovskiy and Nemtsov, and Kashpirovksiy and his flock. But the elections were marked by a high voter turnout and their complete misunderstanding of the liberal democratic leader's ideas. None of his representatives managed to get into the city Duma or oblast legislature. Nemtsov lost no opportunity to "congratulate" Zhirinovskiy on this occasion, sending him a didactic-defiant telegram to the State Duma. Saying, I warned you not to poke your nose into my region but you never listened. Now let us test our strength at oblast governor elections to teach you forever not to run for the Russian presidency. What was Vladimir Volfovich to do? The telegram was widely quoted not only by the Russian but also the world press, and a refusal to meet the challenge would have meant that the LDPR leader is absolutely not confident about his power.

In a word, the gauntlet thrown by Nemtsov has been raised, and now the residents of Nizhniy Novgorod are in for some fun. Back in September, under different circumstances, the oblast legislative assembly deemed governor elections premature and inexpedient because the campaign could destabilize the political situation in the oblast and call for substantial material outlays. Therefore the governor will have, first, to "initiate" the cancellation of this decision: Otherwise the challenge will be seen as false, with all the far- reaching moral and ethical consequences arising from this; and second, raise funds. The LDPR is in a better position. Its leader's ambitions will have to be supported by all of his internal and external supporters, and there are not a few rich people and organizations in the world who sympathize with Zhirinovskiy. Moreover, they can hope for a dividend in the event that the high ground of a strategically important region has been seized.

Where will Nemtsov get the money from? The oblast's current budget has long been eaten away. Therefore loans will have to be sought from the local and nearby rich. No doubt, there will be those willing to pay to support the politician's ambitions. The question is what they will demand in exchange, and whether the people of Nizhniy Novgorod will agree to this.

Duma Delegation Arrives in Mineralnyye Vody

LD1412145394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As far as our radio station knows, the State Duma delegation led by Sergey Kovalev has arrived in Mineralnyye Vody. They should be met there by representatives of the Ingush government and taken to Mozdok or Vladikavkaz.

Bad Weather Turns Back Deputies

LD1412123394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday [13 December] a group of the State Duma deputies headed by Sergey Kovalev, human rights officer, departed for Mozdok (North Ossetia), but after several hours of flight the aircraft was returned back to the Chkalovskiy military aerodrome (near Moscow), deputy Chairman of the Russia's Choice faction Boris Zolotukhin told Interfax.

The pilots explained their return by the fact that the aircraft would be unable to land in Mozdok due to adverse weather conditions (the aircraft was allocated on a private order of Commander-in Chief of Russian Air Force Pyotr Deynekin).

The group was made up of four deputies of the parliament lower chamber who represented different factions and of one member of the Memorial society.

Currently, Zolotukhin reported, the group is still staying on the Chkalovskiy aerodrome and has not received any explanations regarding this interrupted flight.

Duma Security Committee Chief Views Chechnya

MM1412143794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Apparent text of report delivered by V.I. Ilyukhin, chairman of the Russian State Duma Security Committee, at State Duma Session: "Connivance with Criminal Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed deputies, colleagues!

First of all I ask you to display state wisdom, restraint, and common sense in discussing the acute and contradictory problem that is the situation in the Chechen Republic.

I urge all factions and leaders of political parties and movements to renounce any attempts to "play" the Chechen card to the benefit of narrow party interests.

Unfortunately, here in Moscow such attempts are being made. Attempts to create a situation like the one which took shape after the well known April 1989 Tbilisi events. Here many objective circumstances and trends are ignored and in exchange poor-quality information and dubious statements are used.

The majority of Security Committee members are convinced that in assessments of the events in the Chechen Republic we must proceed from one irrefutable fact—that this republic has been and remains a component of the Russian Federation on whose territory the Russian Federation Constitution and other federal laws should operate. Anything else is simply impermissible. Anything else could cause the entire North Caucasus and following it all Russia to explode.

To confirm this thesis I permit myself to remind you, esteemed deputies, that 2 November 1991 the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies deemed illegal the elections to the supreme organ of state power (Supreme Soviet) and of the president held in the Chechen-Ingush Republic 27 October 1991 and deemed the acts adopted by them not subject to execution. That decision was motivated by the gross violations of the electoral rights of many Chechnya citizens committed during the preparation and holding of the elections. Thus the question of the legitimacy of the present power in Chechnya remains open.

I also believe it essential to remind you that the proclamation of the Chechen Republic outside the USSR and Russia was in the name of the executive committee of the nationwide congress of the Chechen people, which has not been invested with such powers.

This statement was preceded by numerous actions to block the work of Chechnya's constitutional organs and mass acts of violence and the murder of citizens and physical expulsion of persons of other nationalities from the republic. Right now over 200,000 citizens have left. The Cossack population has been driven from the majority of villages. In August-September 1991 tens of people died almost daily in various clashes and from various acts of reprisal.

At that time the Veinakh Democratic Party, one of whose leaders was Dzhokhar Dudayev, and the "Islamic Path" party acted as the organizer of the unconstitutional and violent actions.

Every day of Chechnya's so-called sovereign existence adds new troubles and suffering. In fact the entire republic has become the hostage and victim of an adventurist policy and the unabating conflict has led to a real threat of a large-scale Caucasus war.

Chechnya's economy has been reduced to an extreme degree of destruction, unemployment is growing, national resources are being plundered, and corruption is flourishing. The social sphere is in a terribly neglected state.

In fact over 800,000 Chechens now living in the North Caucasus have been deprived of work and pensions and any participation in the country's public life.

There is an unprecedented increase in crime in the republic, caused to a considerable degree by the conflict between Groznyy and the opposition and the presence of a considerable quantity of firearms among the population. They enter Chechnya both from Russian regions and from abroad. Quite recently 50 mortars were supplied to Groznyy from the Baltic republics.

Dudayev's regime, in trying to create a social foundation for itself, has released over 250 convicted murderers, a mass of violent criminals, and other criminals from the labor colonies. And has not only released them but armed them.

In 1993 alone on the Groznyy section of the North Caucasus railroad there were 559 attacks on trains with the complete or partial plunder of about 4,000 cars and containers worth 11.5 billion rubles [R]. Over the first half of this year attacks were made on 450 trains and cars and containers worth over R7 billion were plundered.

In an attempt to extend the life of the moribund regime the bandit formations are confiscating transport, money, and valuables from civilians. Some of the loot is transferred to the defense fund.

During its existence this regime has issued fake advice notes for R10 trillion which have been dispersed throughout Russia. In the fall of 1993 one Chechen criminal grouping manufactured R10 billion in counterfeit money in Turkey and brought it into our country via Chechnya.

Today Dudayev is threatening to murder the state leaders of neighboring republics and is using the blackmail of nuclear terrorism.

I dwell in detail on these facts characterizing Dudayev's regime because some people are trying to present Dudayev himself as some kind of martyr or national hero.

The Chechen criminal world is having an adverse effect on the situation not only in its own republic but also in many large administrative and industrial cities of the Russian Federation. Beyond Chechnya it consists of over 60 groups numbering about 2,000 active members. The spectrum of their criminal activity is very wide: from encroachments on the banking system and illegal foreign trade operations involving petroleum and petroleum productions and currency operations to the arms trade, the distribution of narcotics, and serious crimes against the person.

In connection with the events in Chechnya many Russians are asking, entirely naturally: "But why did this become possible?" Why have the attempts made by the central power to ensure the necessary conditions for the restoration of legality and peace in the Chechen Republic, beginning with the 2 December 1991 Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Seventh Congress appeal and ending with the Russian Federation president's 1 December 1994 edict "on some measures to consolidate law and order in the North Causes," still failed to lead to a positive result?

There are many reasons. I shall dwell on just a few of them.

It is highly symptomatic that today we are discussing the events in the Chechen Republic on the third anniversary of the signing of the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements which undoubtedly could not and will not be able to resolve national problems. On the contrary, they have intensified separatism and given rise to new ethnic and religious national clashes.

The events in Chechnya are the result of inconsistent and ill-considered actions by the federal authorities in implementing the law "on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples."

Moreover, I shall note that some people have forgotten or did not know, when they began thoughtlessly to dig up old graves, that they smell bad and their poison can contaminate all around.

The events in Chechnya graphically confirm that the Russian president and Government have no universal program for a federative system. Nor is there the will for the consistent solution of tasks on the path of creating a new, working federalism with a consideration for the specific nature and features of the components' development. That is why tension and impasses are constantly being created in various parts of the Russian Federation.

What profoundly considered national policy can there be if its thrust is expressed in the notorious utterance: "Swallow as much sovereignty as you can get down."

Now about the attempts made to restore legality and law and order in the Chechen Republic. I catch myself thinking that until recently there were no such attempts or they were simply simulated. But it seems to me that the events in Chechnya actually suit some people.

I shall begin with the fact that the theorists of Russian democracy in the shape of Gavriil Popov, Galina Starovoytova, and some others close to B. Yeltsin and influencing him have put forward and propagandized the idea of forming up to 50 and more independent sovereign states on the territory of the former USSR and Russia. And in that sense Chechnya has been the fruit of that idea.

In August-September [1991—FBIS] Dudayev and his entourage carried out an anticonstitutional coup and he was sent a telegram from the RSFSR Supreme Soviet congratulating him on the victory of the democratic revolution which had inundated Chechnya in blood.

On 7 November 1991 the Russian president announced a sensible edict on the introduction of a state of emergency in the Chechen-Ingush Republic. But the RSFSR Supreme Soviet refused to approve it. And so it went on. Other examples also show that Dudayev's regime suited some political circles in Moscow.

In fact the federal power armed him. On leaving Chechnya our troops left Dudayev 50 modern tanks, about 200 aircraft of various types, and huge stores of the most modern weapons and ammunition.

Considering the billions which Chechen groupings have invested in Russian banks and profitable enterprises, it may confidently be predicted that in the very near future there will be an activation of attempts to lobby for the interests of these groupings at the level of federal power structures.

We must also remember one other factor. The dissolution of constitutional power in Chechnya in August-September 1991 was in fact planned on the basis of the fall events of the previous year in Moscow.

Today the Chechen drama has again made itself felt in drastic form under the conditions of the very tough economic and social crisis in Russia and the government's inability to lead the country out of deadlock and to ensure the proper execution of the budget. I think that this coincidence is no accident either.

Many people now are raising the question of the responsibility of the leaders of the Defense Ministry, counterintelligence, and other Russian departments for the use of military force in Chechnya.

I believe that the emphasis here is wrong and that it is not being placed on the main culprits in the Chechen tragedy, who are in Groznyy and Moscow.

Of course, strong-arm methods have seldom produced an effect. Most often they have given rise to the opposite result. And we must now make every effort to resolve this conflict by peaceful means.

But if we raise the question of responsibility then it is primarily for provoking civil war and for conniving with Dudayev's criminal regime. For the fact that we did not promptly lose the air borders and air space over the Chechen Republic. For the fact that we allowed foreign mercenaries to fight in it and kill Russian people, other Russians.

The Russian Foreign Ministry knew from reliable sources that mercenaries and Dudayev's killers were training in Southern and Eastern muslim states, that Afghans, Tajiks, and now Ukrainians were fighting in Chechnya. From the first days mercenaries from the Baltic republics have been fighting on Dudayev's side. All this is direct interference in Russia's internal affairs. But there was not a single official protest note from our Foreign Ministry. Just as there were no proposals for bringing political and economic influence to bear on the countries supplying mercenaries.

Unfortunately, the Russian Government did not fulfill the State Duma decisions on events in Chechnya adopted 25 March 1994. The Russian president did not heed the voice of the State Duma Security Committee which back in the summer suggested urgently holding a security council and elaborating measures to restore peace and law and order in the Chechen Republic.

We waited until the flames of war erupted with new force.

Esteemed colleagues!

The Security Committee has submitted for your discussion a number of proposals to settle the Chechen conflict. The main ones, I believe, consist in the need to create favorable conditions for holding free elections of all branches of power in the republic and in the holding of these elections. For that it is essential primarily to disarm all bandit formations. We must prepare and sign with legal representatives of power a treaty on the delimitation of powers between federal and republican authorities.

I believe it is possible to recognize the efforts made recently by the Russian federal organs to restore legality and law and order in Chechnya as being in accordance with the Russian Constitution with all ensuing consequences.

Text of Duma Decree on Amnesty for Caucasus Fighters

LD1412221694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—We are transmitting the decree of the State Duma "On declaring an amnesty with regard to people involved in unlawful acts linked to the armed conflicts in the North Caucasus" which was adopted on Tuesday [13 December]:

"With the aim of national reconciliation and achieving civic peace and harmony and in accordance with point "E" of part 1 of Article 103 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation decrees:

1. Not to institute criminal proceedings against persons who have committed illegal actions while taking part in the armed conflicts in North Caucasus, provided they were not involved in grievous crimes against the life and health of citizens and that they laid down arms of their own free will.

2. To dismiss all criminal cases being examined by inquiry and preliminary investigation bodies and cases which have not yet been considered by court, instituted against the persons defined in point 1 of the present resolution.

3. To allow the persons defined in point 1 of the present resolution not to serve their sentence.

4. Points 1-3 of the present resolution will not apply to the following individuals:

a) those who have committed crimes defined by articles 66, 77, 79, 102, 103, 108, 117, 146, 191-2, 206 part 3, 213-3 and paragraph "v" of article 240 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code;

b) those who were previously registered as particularly dangerous recidivists.

5. Those exempted from punishment on the basis of point three of this resolution, will have their criminal record cleared.

6. The present resolution takes effect from the day of its official publication and is applied in accordance with the procedure envisaged by the resolution of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation "On the procedure for the application of the resolution of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation "On the declaration of amnesty for the persons who took part in unlawful actions connected with armed conflicts in the Northern Caucasus".

[signed] I.P Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Moscow.

MVD Will Control Chechen State of Emergency

MM1412154794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Arkadiy Zheludkov: "No System of Controled Movement for Groznyy Yet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy is still not blockaded. But as the moment of its encirclement by forces of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and Defense Ministry draws near and the treaty on the disarmament of the sides has still not been signed, the question is becoming increasingly clear: How will the system governing movement around Chechnya for this republic's citizens be implemented?

This question is by no means an idle one for Russians: In connection with the introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya many people are afraid of terrorist acts in Russia by Chechen thugs. On the other hand, even in the conditions of a state of emergency regime, as has already happened on the territory of Ossetia and Ingushetia, the life of ordinary citizens goes on.

IZVESTIYA asked the Russian MVD and the Temporary Information Center created to cover events in Chechnya for clarification of the procedure for movement around the besieged republic.

Combat operations are taking place in Chechnya now and therefore freedom of movement for citizens as well as the possibility of importing and exporting a number of commodities across the republic's territory have been restricted by military necessity. "As soon as a state of emergency is introduced in Chechnya and its zone of operation established, control of the state of emergency zone will pass to the MVD," Vitaliy Laptev, an official of the Temporary Information Center, said.

Yevgeniy Ryabtsev, a staffer of the Russian MVD Public Relations Center, merely cited the fact that there is in existence a Law on the State of Emergency which prescribes the procedure for actions of officials appointed to monitor the situation. That is, it defines the entry and exit regime, the prohibition of the movement of transport facilities, the restriction of freedom of movement across the territory, the banning of rallies and street demonstrations, the intensification of the protection of public order (curfews and street patrols), the censorship of the mass media—all these measures may be introduced in accordance with the Law on the State of Emergency and in accordance with a presidential edict as soon as Boris Nikolayevich so desires. And after that, if the commandant requests it.

Leaked Report Causes Cancellation of Chechnya Order

MK1412132094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Oleg Kryuchek from Khabarovsk in the "Army" column: "Military Counterintelligence Is

Looking for SEGODNYA's Informers. A Far East Officer Has Been Dismissed for Refusing To Fly to Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major Anatoliy Zaytsev, a military surgeon (the Eastern District of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Interior Troops, Military Unit No. 3519), in a conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent confirmed the report that owing to his refusal to fly to Chechnya for an assignment to a special military headquarters, his superiors invited him voluntarily to submit a retirement request. In a previous issue SEGODNYA inaccurately called the major not Anatoliy but Viktor, for which it has already apologized to him. According to Zaytsev, several more officers wanted to refuse the assignment but changed their minds after the show reprisal against him. Anatoliy Zaytsev has served 21 years in the army and believes that the command had treated him unfairly, not allowing him to serve until he could retire on a pension.

Major General Viktor Veyngart, Eastern District chief of staff, said that a group of interior troops officers from the Far East flew to Mozdok, but not to work at a special military headquarters, nor on secret orders by Gen. Aleksandr Kulikov. The general did not respond to the question on which grounds travel documents had been issued to the officers. At the same time, under current regulations, such a movement of officers on Russia's territory may proceed only based on an order by the Moscow command.

It turned out later on that the Far East officers sent to the conflict area got only as far as Moscow, wherefrom they were ordered back to Khabarovsk without any explanation. The servicemen themselves suppose that the reason for such a senseless waste of money for their trip to Moscow and back was SEGODNYA's report on Gen. Kulikov's secret order, and the preparation of Eastern District personnel for service in Groznyy. "I just cannot believe," one officer said, "that we have escaped real trouble in such a simple way."

At the same time, it transpired that military counterintelligence bodies are now searching Eastern District units for sources of information about Gen. Aleksandr Kulikov's order and the movement of personnel. If they are found, the Federal Counterintelligence Service military bodies intend to open criminal cases under an article penalizing the disclosure of secret information. Meanwhile, the Interior Troops Eastern District Personnel Department says that there is only one Maj. Zaytsev in the troops, but his first name is Yevgeniy, and that at the moment he is in prison. Why the generals deny the existence of Anatoliy Zaytsev is not known, and this causes concern about his fate.

Russian-Speakers Reject Adygeya Draft Constitution

MK1412124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Ye.D.-signed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maykop—A congress of Adygeya Slavs held in Maykop over the past weekend discussed a draft constitution of the republic. In the view of the majority of delegates, the draft of this document elaborated by the parliament of Adygeya should necessarily be put to a national referendum since it contains a number of articles injuring the rights of the majority of citizens of this republic (82 percent of Adygeya's population are Russian- speakers) and upholding the rights of the "title nation"—the Adygs, who account for only 18 percent. Addressing the congress, Dmitriy Rogozin stated that the draft constitution contains a further number of the crudest irregularities. In particular, he pointed to the articles under which Adygeya receives the right freely to secede from the Russian Federation, and the republic introduces its own citizenship. Participants in the congress voiced their negative attitude to the draft constitution, and also stated that Adygeya ought to join Krasnodar Kray as an oblast. Besides, the deputies voted for the Adygeya Slavs Union's joining the Congress of Russian Communities.

Maritime Kray Press in Political Conflict With Nazdratenko

MK1412111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Maksim Zhukov: "Political Conflict in Maritime Kray. The Press Accuses Governor of Dictate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conflict between some Maritime Kray newspapers and Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko has notched a new high. Yesterday, the Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes began looking into journalists' complaints against the administration head. Taking part is Roskompechat [Russian Press Committee].

Members of a number of Maritime Kray mass media claim that the administration headed by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko curbs the local press' freedom and uses various methods to get rid of publications that hold "a point of view different than Yevgeniy Nazdratenko's policy." Journalists speak of outright dictate. As a result, newspapers no longer appear in the kray: They were denied the leasing of premises and printing services.

The Vladivostok newspaper UTRO ROSSII, for example, had spoken out against the administration's plans to create a structure to direct the entire press, and against the idea for the creation of a Maritime Republic. Former chief editor Yuriy Makeyev attributed all the "repressions" unleashed against the collective, including the beating up of journalists, precisely to this. The dismissal of Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov and the filing of charges of graft against him especially sharpened the conflict between the press and the administration. Many newspapers doubted the legitimacy of the governor's actions and wrote that Nazdratenko started proceedings against Cherepkov for political considerations. (Incidentally, the General Prosecutor's

Office has dropped the investigation of Cherepkov). Following this, they have simply stopped publishing opposition newspapers altogether.

Today, some kray publications support Cherepkov, who considers himself mayor of Vladivostok and is ready to return to his duties. Journalists do not rule out that the administration will try to pressure them also this time around. Roskompechat shares the journalists' position.

But in the view of Anatoliy Vengerov, chairman of the Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes, the situation cannot be termed so clear-cut. "A solution to the conflict in Maritime Kray is supposed to serve as an example for all Russian regional authorities, for all Russian journalists," Vengerov underlined. As for the chamber, it made no final decision yesterday, pleading the great number of documents presented by the conflicting sides. Anatoliy Vengerov, however, promised that the decision will be announced shortly.

FCS, FIS in Moves Against Dudayev

MK1412110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Bogdanov under the "Details" rubric: "Chechnya: Despite Moscow's Assurances, Things Are Moving Toward Real War. Kremlin Comments on Developments by Proxy of Secondary Figures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the defense minister's directive which has not yet been repealed, the beginning of the retribution action is scheduled for 15 December. On that day, the deadline of the ultimatum put forward by Yeltsin elapses. Before this date, the internal troops will have completely blocked up the area of military operations.

Military control of the operation has been assigned to Colonel General Aleksey Mityukhin, commander of the Northern Caucasus Military District. The subunits were formed in the Moscow, Leningrad, and Volga Military Districts, and in the Northern Caucasus.

But the main task has been assigned to the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service]. The formation of two special groups totaling 120 men is now being completed in Stepashin's agency. Their objective is the "neutralization" of Dudayev.

Simultaneously, a source from those close to Yevgeniy Primakov has advised that the Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] is actively working on countries where, if defeated, Dudayev may find political asylum. Among the likely countries are Turkey, Iran, and Jordan, where local Chechens wield colossal influence. Jordan's King Husayn is known for his hospitality. This has been taken advantage of, for example, by some former Iraqi Government members who ended up in opposition. Husayn received them but put forward the tough condition: no political activity at all. This has suited everyone, but it would hardly be to the taste of the ambitious Dzhokhar Dudayev.

International Affairs

Kuchma Welcomes Gaydar's Economic Advice

LD1412201194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 14 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Nikolai Zherebtsov and Andrei Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma welcomed the offer of Yegor Gaydar to help Ukraine in economic reforms. He told Interfax that Anatoliy Galchinsky, his adviser on macroeconomic issues, would contact Gaydar.

IF Note: Gaydar offered advice and other aid in reforming Ukraine's economy in a letter to Kuchma.

Kuchma said that a decision on restructuring the Ukrainian foreign debt had to be made before February 1, 1995.

He said that Russia would not press for repayment of $2.5 billion of old debts but wanted Ukraine to pay the $1.4 billion it owed for Russian gas.

Kuchma said that, according to the Russian negotiators, the State Duma would not write off that amount.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol signed an agreement with Russia on a "zero option" in sharing the assets and liabilities of the former USSR. On the other hand, no agreements were reached on restructuring the debt or making part of former Soviet facilities available to Ukraine for embassies and trade and other missions.

The Ukrainian leaders believe that the financial situation could be improved and debts to Russia for fuel supplies paid by transforming Ukrainian oil refineries into joint stock societies with Russian capital.

Kuchma expected Ukrainian refineries to work at 30 percent of their capacity in 1995. He said that Russian oil companies were prepared to set up joint ventures to operate oil refineries but the Ukrainian parliament listed them with businesses which could not be privatized.

Kuchma told a delegation of the Nikolayev Region in Kiev that he would welcome participation of foreign companies in privatization of defense factories. He said that the state could not afford the defense industry but parliament banned its privatization.

Kiev, Moscow Agree on 'Zero Variant' Payments

AU1512091094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Let Us Start From the Very Beginning, Let Us Start From Zero"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, Russia and Ukraine concluded an agreement on the division of assets and liabilities of the former USSR. The document was signed in Moscow by prime ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vitaliy Masol. The agreement is the long-discussed "zero variant," accordance to which Russia keeps all the assets of the former USSR in exchange for paying the interest on Ukraine's share of the former Soviet Union's debts to foreign creditors.

As Ukraine's Prime Minister V. Masol stated to journalists after signing the document, Ukraine no longer owes anybody anything for the former Soviet debts, but nobody owes it anything either.

A. Bolshakov, vice premier of the Russian Federation's government, who took part in the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations, disclosed that another two agreements will soon be signed: on restructuring Ukraine's debt to Russia for supplies of goods worth $2.7 billion and an agreement on the division of the former USSR's real estate abroad.

The agreement on restructuring Ukrainian debts to Russia does not cover the Ukraine's debts for Russian gas deliveries.

Officials Opine Russia 'Unprepared' for Talks

LD1412174194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 14 Dec—A regular round of Ukrainian-Russian talks on the preparation of a Treaty on Friendship, Partnership, and Cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation is continuing in Pushcha-Ozernaya, for the second day. The Ukrainian delegation is led by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk and the Russian delegation is led at this round of talks by Ambassador-at-Large Yuriy Dubinin, despite the fact that Oleg Soskovets was appointed official head of the Russian delegation. In the opinion of some top-ranking officials of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, one should not expect any specific decision to be made under such circumstances, because Yuriy Dubinin only turns up when the adoption of some specific decision is to be procrastinated.

Commenting on the progress of the talks, Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk expressed doubt that the talks would be a success. According to him, the Russian delegation turned out to be unprepared for the discussion of the documents. One week ago, Mr. Tarasyuk said, Yevhen Marchuk personally sent a Declaration on settling the Black Sea Fleet issues to Oleg Soskovets. The Declaration includes a package of nine agreements, in particular, agreements on the procedure of dividing ships and vessels, on the procedure of dividing the air force, on the procedure of dividing the coastal troops, on the zones of responsibility for the sea and air space, on the joint use of unique facilities, on the joint use of hydrographic and hydrometeorological equipment, and on leasing the shore-based infrastructure. The Ukrainian delegation proposed that the Russian Government resolve at least partially some very important issues. However, members of the Russian delegation said they had not seen these documents whatsoever. Mr. Tarasyuk expressed doubt that any progress can be achieved in the negotiating process with such an approach by the Russian side. Yuriy Dubinin, on his part, pointed out that no common approach and no single document are available as yet to resolve the problem. However, he said, we sat down at the negotiating table and constructive work is going on.

Marchuk on Talks

LD1412204994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Volodymyr Ivakhnenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev— "The sides worked on two primary documents and seven of secondary importance," Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, said, summing up the results of the talks between the state delegations of Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet. He said that a draft declaration "On the main principles of settling the Black Sea Fleet issue," which was one of the primary documents to be signed by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, has almost been completed. Also agreed, in his words, were some of the issues that have not been addressed up until now, with the sides' approach toward an understanding on the principles of Russia's lease of Crimea's naval bases being identical. "However, there remain several other issues associated with the ownership and structure of fleet bases, in respect of which there are certain differences," he said.

Yevhen Marchuk added that the state delegations have finalized the order in which they are to proceed about the subject of the Black Sea Fleet. It was decided, he said, that the matter of Black Sea Fleet funding by Ukraine is to be thrashed out in the very near future.

As is known, the Black Sea Fleet at present is being financed by the Russian Federation. Funds for social, ecological, and other purposes, however, are being allocated from the budget of Ukraine. "To avoid any misunderstanding and unnecessary tension, we agreed to have a separate round of negotiations in two weeks' time to resolve this problem," Yevhen Marchuk said.

He added that certain progress has been made on the issue of the two fleets' bases. However, it is too early yet to talk about concrete results.

National Affairs

Kuchma Prepares For Referendum on Power Bill

LD1412150994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1305 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The president is prepared to gather signatures in support of holding a referendum if the Supreme Council fails to adopt the draft law "On power". Mykhaylo Doroshenko, the Ukrainian president's press secretary, said this at a regular briefing held in the president's administration on 14 December. In his words, 3 million signatures are needed in order for the referendum to be held. "As of today, only Lugansk oblast, the city of Kiev and Crimea have not supported the president fully", Mykhaylo Doroshenko noted.

In the view of Ivan Tymchenko, the head of the juridical directorate of the president's administration, if a referendum is held the draft law "On power" hasevery chance of being supported by the people. Also, he did not exclude the possibility that "good sense would prevail" and the Supreme Council would adopt the law.

Ivan Tymchenko refuted the accusation that the president's draft is not in line with the current constitution. In his words, "the constitutional provisions will continue to be in force in so far as they do not contradict the law 'On Power.'"

In an interview with UNIAN Ivan Tymchenko said that the president did not agree with the Supreme Council's proposal to give the president the right to issue edicts that are of a legislative nature provided he had the parliament's consent. In his words, "this procedure violates the completeness of the concept which, in turn, would not yield the relevant results."

Oblast Leader Critcizes Self-Government Bill

WS1412151694 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 9 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Volodymyr Katsman: "Who Attacks the Idea of Regional Self-Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The parliament's draft law on local councils made the idea of local self-government practically insipid," Vitaliy Kosykh, chairman of the Chernigov City Council, said in an interview to our correspondent. "Following its logic," he emphasized, "the mayor, stripped of the right to dispose of municipal property, has only one responsibility—to execute commands of superior councils or the Supreme Council." Vitaliy Kosykh described this as an "offensive against the idea of regional self-government." In his opinion, the draft said practically nothing about radical changes of tax policies in the relations of the center and the provinces: "At present, Chernigov receives only 4 percent (!) of all taxes collected in the city, with the rest of the tax revenue going to the oblast and Kiev. In this situation, I am sure, no official will want to launch any projects—it will be simply unprofitable for him." The chairman believes that the president, as the executive power, should resolutely weigh in.

Recently, the Chernigov City Council issued an appeal to President Kuchma and Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz demanding that the draft law on local councils be removed from the agenda of the Ukrainian parliament. "I am sure that mayors of practically all Ukrainian cities and towns will support not this draft, but the law on the power proposed by the president's team," Vitaliy Kosykh stated.

Masol Sees Russian Relations as 'Priority'

LD1412180294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1452 GMT on 14 December in its "World Today" program carries a 5-minute review by correspondent Yelena of Russian-Ukrainian relations since Leonid Kuchma was elected president. Over video showing Black Sea Fleet ships and scenes in the Ukrainian parliament, Pobereznikova says that the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's debts to Russia have been the main points of dispute between the two countries. Having briefly described Ukraine's progress toward market reforms and support for them from the Rukh movement, Pobereznikova goes on to say that "the latest sensation was the fact that, unexpectedly for many, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, too, voiced his support for radical market reforms and stronger integration, thus taking the wind out of his opponents' sails."

Pobereznikova is seen talking to Masol in a lobby. Masol says: "Today our relations with Russia are our priority relations. We are in the center of Europe, all transport routes pass through Ukraine, fuel is in Russia, and therefore settling all economic issues is the principal problem of our states. All these issues are reflected in the program drafted by Kuchma and backed by the parliament. I, too, believe that we should move toward normal market relations to ensure that within a year the Ukrainian people will feel that positive changes in the situation have taken place."

Ministers Discuss Reform, Fuel Issues

LD1412212194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev, 14 Dec—Viktor Pynzenyk, first deputy prime minister for issues of economic reform, delivered a report at the Supreme Council session on measures to increase the population's cash incomes in connection with the changes in price formation (Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 733 of October 1994) and on the implementation of the Supreme Council's resolution of 18 November by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Dyuba, the deputy prime minister for issues of the fuel and energy complex and metallurgy, delivered a report in continuation of the topic dealing with the course of implementation of the Supreme Council's resolution of 10 November "On the state of preparation of the fuel and energy complex for the autumn-winter season." He told the Supreme Council that due to the crisis of payments in the industry the coal extraction target was only realized by 75 percent, the gas supply in November was reduced by 20 percent, the available nuclear fuel at nuclear power stations would only last till January, and the consumers' debt to the industry amounted to 23 trillion karbovantsi. Because of the crisis, a number of energy-consuming enterprises were forced to discontinue their operation, and the power supply to the regions has been cut off periodically. In some places the power supply is cut off automatically when the frequency of current in the power supply system goes down. According to Anatoliy Dyuba, the industry has for several weeks been working "at the expense of its own money resources."

Meanwhile, the output of coal has somewhat increased as a result of the measures taken by the government. It is planned to buy some coal in Poland. Negotiations will be held with Turkmenistan on increasing gas supplies to Ukraine. Eighty-nine deputies wished to put their questions to Anatoliy Dyuba. In his replies, the deputy prime minister asked for additional credits to improve the work of the industry.

Oleksandr Kozhushko, the chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of the Fuel and Energy Complex, Transport and Communication, sharply criticized the Cabinet of Ministers for the fact that government officials lost control over the fuel and energy complex. Proceeding from the conclusions made in the report, the Supreme Council passed a resolution in which the work of the Cabinet of Ministers was assessed as unsatisfactory. The resolution contains a proposal that the state structures' role in providing fuels that are supplied to Ukraine from other countries should be stepped up.

Moroz Sees BSEC in 'Important' Stage

LD1412222394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The activity of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] Parliamentary Assembly has entered a stage of great importance, which is a transition to that organization's drawing up and carrying out a long-term program in the sphere of transport, trade, and business, Supreme Council of Ukraine Chairman Oleksandr Moroz told a news conference on the results of the sitting by the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly general council held in Tirana. Oleksandr Moroz led Ukraine's parliamentary delegation at the sitting.

This means, he continued, that the period of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly's establishment is over and the parliamentary community will be able in practice to influence the processes under way in their region and worldwide.

The first step in the direction of this will be to set up a Black Sea Bank for Reconstruction and Development with an authorized capital of $1 billion. It will help establish closer cooperation between Black Sea countries and put into practice BSEC projects.

There are plans for parliamentary collaboration in legislative work to extend further. It is expected, in particular, that customs and visa agreements between Black Sea countries will be revised and liberalized.

Poll Shows Many Crimeans Favor Independence

LD1412213794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Crimea, Dec 14 (Interfax)—A total of 27.9 percent of Crimean residents would like Crimea to be an independent member of the CIS, another 27.9 percent would like to see it as an autonomous republic within Russia, revealed the sociological poll conducted by the Krymsotsis sociological research service and the Center for Regional Development of Crimea.

A total of 15.1 percent of those polled would like Crimea to be an autonomous republic within the composition of Ukraine and 10.29 percent would like to see Crimea as an independent state.

A total of 993 respondents from five Crimean towns and five rural regions took part in the poll.

Uranium Resources Seen as 'Sufficient'

LD1412153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Kravchenko for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dnepropetrovsk December 14—Ukraine's uranium ore resources are sufficient for a century of intensive mining, chief engineer of the Vostochnyy dressing mill Stanislav Bezrodnyy said. The mill, largest in the former USSR's military industrial sector, now sells its products to Ukraine's nuclear power plants. Vostochnyy does not supply any more uranium for nuclear weapons.

Bezrodnyy said the mill's arms in the Dnepropetrovsk, Kirovograd and Nikolayev regions launched intensive mining of scandium ores which are raw materials for new technologies to be used in aircraft, ship and rocket building and in electronics. Scandium is a light material which renders alloys a high anti-corrosive and thermal stability and makes aluminium three times harder.

Zheltye Vody-based factory was the first in the CIS to start industrial processing of scandium, the "21st Century material."

however, Bezrodnyy said, the Vostochnyy mill's main direction is mining and selling of uranium for the Ukrainian energy sector to help it earn foreign currency for buying western-made equipment and parts for nuclear power plants. On initiative from the Dnieper region's uranium producers, nuclear power plants invested in safety projects $5.5 million dollars they earned from uranium exports.

Belarus

Lukashenka on Prices, Crime, NATO Expansion

LD1412195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Dec 14 (Interfax)—Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has predicted that prices in the republic will rise further.

"Whether we want it or not, but we have to live according to our means, while this means that the prices of food, raw materials and communal utilities will grow," he told a session of the Brest regional council Wednesday.

Speaking on internal issues and the increasing crime rate, Lukashenka assured those present that he will "stand neither a 1937, nor disorders in the republic. For whom we will stage a 1937, it is for swindlers," he stressed. (1937 was a year of mass repression—IF note).

Commenting on the intention by East European countries and some former Soviet republics to integrate into NATO, Lukashenka said Belarus was concerned over the possibility of NATO's expansion to the east.

"We share Russia's concern over this issue," he remarked. He said that Belarus was the only republic to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the issue. "Even before NATO is on the Russian border, it will come to that of Belarus," he added.

Defense Ministry Signs Agreement With Poland

LD1512104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 15 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potyomkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Warsaw 15 December TASS—The Defence Ministries of Poland and Byelorussia [Belarus] have signed an agreement on cooperation in training, use of military equipment and educational work.

The agreement was signed in Warsaw by Deputy Defence Ministers Erzy Milewski and Lieutenant-General Leonid Maltsev.

The delegation from Byelorussia is in Poland to discuss bilateral cooperation in the military field at the invitation of the Polish Army general staff.

Milewski and Maltsev have already held talks on their countries' participation in the Partnership for Peace programme.

Chyhir, Slezevicius Sign Cooperation Agreement

WS1512100094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A working meeting of government delegations representing Belarus and Lithuania, headed by Prime Minister Chyhir and his Lithuanian counterpart Adolfas Slezevicius, has taken place in Vilnius. During the meeting, an agreement between the Lithuanian Government and our Cabinet of Ministers was signed on trade and economic cooperation. Once again, the sides touched upon the question of transferring the Belarus sanatorium in the city of Druskininkai to Belarusian control. The Lithuanian prime minister informed the Belarusian delegation that this question had been submitted for consideration by the Seimas [parliament]. The prime ministers also discussed an entire range of other economic issues. Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir also met with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Expert on Problems of Disarmament Process

WS1412150394 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 3 Dec 94 p 1

[Interview with Alyaksandr Mukhtaravich Baychoraw, head of the International Security and Disarmament Administration at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, by correspondent Syarhey Zayats; place and date not given: "Alyaksandr Baychoraw on Liquidation of Military Hardware Surplus in Belarus"—first paragraph is ZVYAZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zayats] Alyaksandr Mukhtaravich, discussing the process of disarmament in the Republic, many officials reproach the current government for concentrating only on the implementation of international agreements—concluded some time ago—rather than on providing conditions for national security. Does this assumption correspond with reality?

[Baychoraw] The implementation of international agreements is a matter of honor for each state because the international image of a state—as well as its image of being a stable business partner—depends on how it fulfills its international obligations. The international opinion about Belarus will also greatly depend on whether Belarus implements the SALT Treaty in full and in good time. Yes, we have signed it. You cannot back out once you have begun.... Given the current economic situation, we—from time to time—remind the international community of how difficult it is to fulfill our obligations alone, without foreign financial support.

Representatives of Belarus have raised the issue of our "poverty" at the meeting of the UN First Committee, at which the issues pertaining to disarmament and international security were discussed. Belarusian politicians have raised the issue of the disproportionally heavy burden that was laid on the Republic in connection with the limitation of arms and military hardware. According to CSCE, our Republic is obliged to liquidate 1.7 times as many tanks as the United States, France, and Great Britain combined.

This fact, however, does not imply that the Belarusian Government does not pay any attention to national security. When the process of arms limitation is completed in November 1995, our Republic will have several times as many units of military hardware as our neighboring states. For example, in conventional terms, one unit of military hardware in Belarus,—for example, a tank—is "owned" by some 5,700 people, while in Ukraine—13,000, in Poland—22,000, and in Russia—some 22,000. By the way, Belarus is bound to liquidate 2,171 tanks within a three-year period.

We have similar problems with other types of military hardware. When Belarus scraps a specific number of aircraft, 39,000 Belarusian citizens will "own" one combat aircraft, while a corresponding figure in Poland and Germany is two times as high. As for a per- person number of helicopters and armored personnel carriers, Belarus also has two to three times numerical superiority, compared with its neighbors. Such a numerical superiority in military hardware is not our fault. Such a situation is of a historical nature, because, according to the military doctrine of the former USSR, an "offensive" fist of the entire Red Army was located in Belarus.

[Zayats] Is the liquidation of such a large amount of military hardware justified?

[Baychoraw] Given the new economic situation, the liquidation of military hardware is justified. According to estimates by experts, it is more beneficial for Belarus to liquidate its arms surplus within a three-year period than allocate funds for maintaining and servicing military hardware for 10 to 15 years. By dismantling tanks, the Republic, for example, is partially resolving two problems: It provides the people with jobs and the metallurgic industry with raw materials. This is very important because—after the collapse of the USSR—deliveries of raw materials for the needs of our metallurgic industry from Russia have been reduced.

To keep metal—of which we are short of—in the Republic and not import it to the neighboring states, the government has rejected profitable deals with foreign businessmen, who wanted to take the burden of all expenditures for the liquidation of military hardware upon themselves. Businessmen were eager to buy all the military hardware—subject to dismantlement—scrap it and sell it as scrap iron. Had the Republic agreed to such an agreement, it would have been paid a rather high interest rate on such transactions. If such an agreement were signed, the Republic would not be obliged to bear any expenditures, however, it would have no metal as well. All the raw materials which are currently received from scrap military hardware are delivered to the metallurgical factory in Zhlobin.

[Zayats] What about the dismantlement of missiles in Belarus?

[Baychoraw] We are not scrapping now and will not scrap any more missiles in Belarus. We scrapped only short-range and long- range missiles. This work, however, is over.

As for nuclear arms, Belarus has never claimed it wants to preserve them. Nuclear arms are Russian property. Therefore, Russia owns all mobile strategic complexes and launch sites, which are temporarily located on Belarusian territory.

The issue related to the use of propellants for the needs of the national economy has not yet been resolved. Our propellant reserves, however, generate more problems than benefits. This is an environmentally unsafe product. To recycle it, we will have to put into operation specific production processes, which require enormous financial expenditures in both rubles and hard currency. To my regret, the Republic lacks sufficient funds.

Air Force Notes Personnel Drain, Fuel Shortages

MM1412150594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belorussian Air Force Rooted to Ground by Economic 'Fog'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since reform of the Belorussian [Belarusian] Armed Forces began 60 percent of the authorized number of Belorussian Air Force flight personnel have left for other CIS armies, primarily the Russian Army. As a result even after considerable cuts Air Force units have no more than 80 percent of their full complement of military pilots. And they have virtually lost any chance to fly. Whereas in 1992 pilots spent 120 hours apiece in the skies, now the annual norm for flying hours in front-line and fighter aircraft is no more than 25 hours, and 30 hours in the Army air force. Fuel is in short supply. In some aviation units only half the aircraft are able to take to the skies. None of the future pilots and navigators graduating from military schools in Russia has any intention of returning to the republic which they left to study. If this situation persists, the Belorussian Air Force may be given up for lost in the near future.

Moldova

Parliament Passes Constitutional Court Law

AU1412164394 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/12/1994—The Moldovan Parliament passed the Law on the Constitution Court by a unanimous vote today.

The act envisages establishing the Court "as a single body of the constitution jurisdiction in the Republic of Moldova." It guarantees the superiority of the Constitution, provides for execution of the principle of division of powers, guarantees the responsibility of the State towards the citizens and of the citizens towards the State.

The chairman of the parliamentary Legal Committee, Eugen Russu, said to INFOTAG that the establishment of the Constitution Court is a novelty in the republic's juridical practice, and it is aimed exceptionally at the observance of the rule of law.

"The Court shall be responsible for checking the accordance of regulatory enactments, adopted by president, parliament and government, to the main law—the Constitution. It is to promptly react on inquiries concerning violations of law. The Court is to check the observance of legislation during national referendums, parliamentary and presidential elections, and has some other functions," Russu said.

The Court shall included six judges representing three branches of power. Two judges shall be appointed by Parliament, two by the president, and two by the court system.

The Court shall be elected for six years, and each three years its complement shall be renewed by half: Each branch of power shall replace one of its judges by a new one.

Chisinau on CSCE Monitoring Troop Withdrawal

AU1312145194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 12 Dec 94

["Political Commentary": "Chisinau Promotes Idea of Monitoring To Make Sure 14th Army's Withdrawal Agreement Is Fulfilled"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 12/12/1994—The evaluation of the Moldovan delegation's diplomatic tour to Budapest which attempted to solve several problems continues in Chisinau. According to experts, Moldova wanted to probe the international opinion, and Russia's in particular, on international peace keepers' introduction in Dniester and international monitoring of the 14th Army's withdrawal from the eastern districts. A presidential press service communique says that "the states participating in the Budapest reunion greeted the 14th Army's withdrawal agreement between Moldova and Russia and favoured its rapid enforcement." President Snegur's press service emphasized that the CSCE does not favour the synchronization of the Russian troops' withdrawal and grating of special status of Dniester. Local observers say that since the Rome reunion Chisinau's efforts are nothing else but a terminological race in which the Moldovan authorities got involved when they accepted the synchronization of elaborating a special status to Dniester with the 14th Army's departure.

Chisinau's proposal to introduce the international "blue helmets" in Dniester was supported by participants in the reunion and the most important Russia did not oppose it. The proposal to set an external control of the Chernomyrdin-Sangheli agreement signed in October was quite a surprise. The Kremlin reacted with delay. Only by the end of the last week the Russian Embassy to Chisinau made public a statement by the Russian Foreign Minister spokesman on the "position adopted by the Moldovan leadership and certain representatives of the Western countries regarding the establishment of an international control over the 14th Army's withdrawal." The statement says that the agreement is an affair to be solved exclusively between Moldova and Russia and does not envision an international monitoring. The Moscow Foreign Ministry says that not even during the talks were such proposals made.

But the idea of international monitoring was not perceived in Moldova unequivocally. The social-democrats, of the opposition's moderate side, believe that such a proposal is nothing but an expression of non-confidence toward Russia and Moscow might understand it as an insult. Nicolae Chirtoaca, Party of Liberal Democracy (PDL) co-chairman, former presidential military adviser, said that there is no mechanism to ensure 14th Army's timely and unconditional withdrawal, such a mechanism being impossible within bilateral relations. He believes that Moscow's negative reaction is determined by the fact that Russia saw itself rejected as a potential NATO member. In another words, Chisinau is the victim of the Clinton-Yeltsin game risking to resume talks on the 14th Army's withdrawal from the beginning. Valeriu Matei, Peasants and Intellectuals Block Parliamentary Faction chairman, stated that Moscow's position resulted from the liquidation of the four-party mechanism of settling the Dniester conflict adding that the bilateral supervision cannot be fulfilled since "Chisinau has no administrative control over the territory where the 14th Army is deployed." Dniester leaders question the international monitoring saying that it could favour Chisinau. In their opinion, foreign observers' involvement will not settle the dispute between Chisinau and Tiraspol which claims exclusive rights to take over the 14th Army equipment.

Dumitru Diacov, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Relations, said that Russia should not oppose external monitoring "to avoid accusations of assisting the Tiraspol regime." In less Aesopian words this statement could be paraphrased "if you are really impartial and do not aim at fortifying the Tiraspol regime you have to accept 'the monitoring' of the Russian troops' withdrawal."

Meanwhile, Russia's proposal to submit the agreement to the State Duma for ratification makes the problem of monitoring unwelcome, if not sterile, gauge some experts. There is no one who would assume responsibility for the 14th Army's withdrawal thus opposing to the Russian or Moldovan marginal forces which plead for Russian Army's presence in Dniester. Moreover, the tremendous costs of this operation and lack of detailed coordination with the Ukrainian authorities might place the promoters of the agreement in absolute minority.

Official on Proposal Rejection

AU1412145794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2157 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/12/1994—Tudor Butnaru, vice minister of foreign affairs, made comments on the declaration by the Russian Foreign Ministry, which rejects the idea of the 14th Army's withdrawal. Butnaru told BASA that the declaration reveals Russia's wish to exclude forces other than those directly concerned—Moldova and Russia—from the 14th Army's withdrawal process. This position is due to the manner in which Russia was received at the Budapest CSCE summit and its internal problems. Asked if the Moldovan Foreign Ministry will make a response declaration, Butnaru said that Moldovan officials have not changed the position expressed at various international forums. He said that Moldova would like the ratification to be made as soon as possible, but "it is not known what position the Russian State Duma will take."

Valentin Dolganiuc, the leader of the Christian-Democratic Popular Alliance faction in the Moldovan Parliament, expressed his opinion on the declaration by the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in which the latter rejects the idea of monitoring the 14th Army's withdrawal. Dolganiuc told BASA that "this declaration proves that Moldova is involved in the CIS military and political issues and that practically it has lost its independence. (...) The very fact that a three-year term was set for the withdrawal of the Russian Army makes us believe that the delay in this action is a mere attempt not to allow the withdrawal," said Dolganiuc. He added that this declaration is to be considered also in the context of recent events, such as the fact that Russia was not accepted to the NATO and Russia's deploying troops to Chechnya. Asked whether the events in Chechnya can be compared to the ones of 1992 in the Dniester region, Dolganiuc said that "in 1992 Moscow wanted to save the USSR, whereas today it faces the danger of Russia's disintegration." The opposition alliance leader thinks that "the Russian military intervention in Chechnya could evolve into a new, long-lasting Afghanistan."

Former Ambassador Criticizes Terms

AU1412165394 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/12/1994—"An error of Moldovan diplomacy"—that's how Anatol Taranu, Moldova's ex-ambassador to Russia, has regarded the terms fixed in the Russian 14th Army withdrawal agreement.

He said to INFOTAG that after the agreement was signed, "there were some vague hopes that the document would be accompanied by some 'shady' accords that would ensure substantial compensations for Moldova for its having actually granted a possibility to Russia to procrastinate the army removal during an uncertainly long time. However, our latest foreign political moves have shown the hopes were groundless."

In his estimates, if the withdrawal and the Dniester conflict settlement are to be synchronized, then a stoppage of one process shall automatically halt the other one.

"The Dniester leaders always stood up for keeping the Army on their territory. And even without the synchronization, they were never eager to solve the conflict finally. On the other side, if one presumes that Russia is seeking to preserve its military presence in Moldova, but, under international pressure, has to undertake some actions proving its intention to withdraw the troops, then the agreement-fixed principle of synchronization gives an excellent chance to delay the removal during God knows what time. To preserve the pretext, it becomes definitely disadvantageous for Russia to cut the Dniester knot," Taranu said.

He believes another gross error was that the agreement implementation mechanism was not agreed upon and fixed in documents. Voices are already being heard in Moscow that the agreement should be ratified by the State Duma. Hence, its chances to become valid are minimal.

"Having signed a bad treaty, our politicians are seeking to improve things by offering initiatives on international control over the army withdrawal. Chisinau seems to be underestimating that Russia is not the country to speak with in such a way. Can you imagine a situation that General Lebed (Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army] reports back to NATO international control officers on the terms and schedule of troops withdrawal from Moldova? I never!" Taranu said.

Russia will never allow for any international monitoring, and will apply, in case of need, for its right for veto in the United Nations. As for the recent Romanian president's support of the Moldovan initiative, that is the way an experienced and far-sighted politician should behave, Taranu believes. "But I am sure Bucharest will never forget the unfriendly move of Chisinau, when it threatened Romania it would invite the united CIS military forces and deploy them along the Prut River.

"We are witnessing a strange situation when the small Moldova is affording a luxury of delivering blows to the right and to the left, thus creating a strain in relations with both Romania and Russia. One can hardly call this a wise policy," Taranu stressed.

Snegur Focusses on Minority Rights

AU1412155994 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/12/1994—The Moldovan president Mircea Snegur spoke for observing the rights of national minorities in the republic. Meeting with a delegation of the Democratic Union of Romanian Hungarians (UDMR), he underlined that "the future of Moldova and its image in the world largely depend on how we react on minorities' needs to develop their traditions and culture."

The UDMR Chairman, Bela Marko, pointed out that the Moldova's experience in that field could be utilized by other countries, too. He stressed as particularly important the possibility to scrutinize the real situation in Moldova given to the delegation here. The guests arrived in Moldova on the invitation of the Agrarian Democratic Party, and had meetings with top officials, parliamentary factions, national minorities.

They are to meet with the opposition, and speak at a news conference tomorrow.

Bulgarian President Comments

AU1312144494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 12/12/1994—Today, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, who is visiting Chisinau, made statements for press, relays the Presidential Press Service. Snegur called the Bulgarian president's visit fruitful. The two presidents discussed the preservation of security and peace in the region and cooperation within the Black Sea countries community. A special emphasis was laid on fostering bilateral relations on the basis of the agreements signed during the visit. Yesterday, Zhelyu Zhelev visited Tvardita, Ciadar-Lunga District, inhabited by Bulgarians. Referring to this visit Snegur said that "Moldovan Bulgarians who represent 2 percent of the population favour Moldova's statehood." The agreement on commercial-economic cooperation stipulates the mutual granting of the most favoured nation status. Zhelev said that the Bulgarian minority in Moldova enjoys the broadest rights which conform with international norms. "By its attitude towards ethnic minorities Moldova proved that it is genuinely a democratic state," Zhelev said. He also said that Bulgaria supports Moldova's intention to join the Council of Europe. Zhelev mentioned that soon the agreements on protecting investments and avoiding double taxation will be signed.

Tax Nonpayment Causes State Budget Shortages

AU1412155094 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/12/1994—The Moldovan state budget short-received 350 million lei worth of taxes since the beginning of 1994. Out of the sum, 180 million lei belong to the state budget proper, and 170 million—to local budgets, Finance Minister Valeriu Chitan said.

The tax arrears produced a dramatic situation when wages cannot be paid to employees in budget-financed sectors. As on December 1, the wages arrears there amounted to 43 million lei.

During the recent parliamentary hearings on the arrears, the Finance Minister said that practically all mechanisms of collecting taxes from economic agents had been exhausted. The ministry prepared and submitted to parliament suggestions on amending the existing legislation. These amendments provide for a strict responsibility of economic agents for failure to pay taxes on time.

Delayed Oil Payments Burden State Fuel Company

AU1412165494 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/12/1994—Oil product consumers owe more than 260 million lei to the State Fuel Association, Director General Nikolay Cherniy has reported to INFOTAG.

He said that the huge indebtedness did not allow the Association to promptly pay taxes to the state budget. However, Cherniy managed to reduce his tax arrears from 41 million lei to 28 million a few days ago.

Out of the above 260 million, 120 million is owed by Moldenergo enterprises, 60 million by agriculture, and the rest by the National Railway Company, aviation, automobile transport, etc.

The above agents' delayed payments have led to a situation when the State Fuel Association itself suffers considerable financial losses in form of fines for defaults in repaying credits. According to Cherniy, the Association received 40 million lei worth of credits from Moldovan banks, $20 million worth of credit from the World Bank, and $16 million from the Finance Ministry.

Kazakhstan

Strategic Nuclear Missiles Taken Off Duty

LD1412184394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty Dec 14 (INTERFAX)—Intercontinental ballistic missiles are being taken off duty in Kazakhstan and components of the strategic offensive weapons are being removed to Russia, Kazakhstan's First Deputy Defense Minister Major-General Alibek Kasymov told Interfax.

He said that Kazakhstan had "demonstrated good will" before the START-1 Treaty went into effect, taking a number of measures as a result of which "the Russian troops' strategic grouping stationed in the republic has been considerably cut down."

He also said that the aviation division, previously located near Semipalatinsk, had been completely removed from Kazakhstan.

"The process is well organized, although there are certain financial problems," he said. In accordance with the agreement, this work is to last for seven years.

Nazarbayev Praises Ties With Russia

LD1412161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0301 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 14 Dec—We look upon Russia as our natural ally; our special partnership and traditional ties of friendship go back centuries, said President Nursultan Nazarbayev, speaking on Tuesday at a conference in the republican capital. Kazakhstan, he stressed, needs to capture the Russian market more actively, and the Russians need to do the same in Kazakh markets. Close economic relations between our two countries must be established and raised to a qualitatively new level from the standpoint of market relations and state independence.

The conference was devoted to an analysis of the socio-economic situation in the republic. Not everything in this sphere is proceeding smoothly, the president said. However, positive processes are gathering momentum every day. And in order to ensure that the long awaited changes broaden and become fuller, inter- ethnic unity and accord must be further preserved, "and the united people of the country must not be divided on ethnic and social grounds, but we must tackle our common tasks together and in a friendly manner."

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev Signs Agreements in Pakistan

LD1412123794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic section of the negotiations [with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev in Pakistan 10-12 December] have proved quite fruitful: In addition to a mutual declaration on principles and areas for cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, intergovernmental agreements were signed on trade and economic relations, international road communications, cooperation on tourism, setting up an intergovernmental Kyrgyz-Pakistan economic commission, and other documents.

The agreement on international road communications envisages the organization of international motor transport along the Bishkek-Torugar-Kashgar highway, the Karakoram highway, and on to Islamabad and Karachi. Kyrgyzstan will thus gain access to the Indian Ocean. It will make it possible to somewhat reduce the route for exporting and importing goods, and to build up trade with countries in the Asian-Pacific region.

A basic agreement has been reached on exporting our electricity to Pakistan, which will allow our republic to get up to $250 million a year.

Several economic agreements were concluded between Kyrgyz businessmen and the famous Pakistani corporation Tabani. Thus, they will supply a large amount of cement, roofing slate, lime, asbestos and cement pipes, wool and hides to this country [Pakistan]. For its part, Tabani intends to provide our Olympic sportsmen with sportswear.

A decision was reached on a $10 million credit to develop the pharmaceutical industry in our republic, in particular to complete the building of the Bishkek chemical and pharmaceutical plant.

Regular air communications between Kyrgyzstan and Islamabad will bring our countries substantially closer together.

Akayev invited the leadership of Pakistan to pay a friendly visit to Kyrgyzstan. This invitation was accepted. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will take part in the festivities to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the Manas epic on 31 August 1995. President Farooq Leghari will visit Kyrgyzstan in May next year.

A briefing for journalists was dedicated to the results of the official visit of the Kyrgyzstan delegation led by President Akayev to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The briefing was held yesterday by Kamil Bayevilov, the new head of the presidential press service. Together with Baktybek Abrysayev, the head of the international department of the president's administration, he spoke about the significance of Akayev's first official visit to Pakistan and about the agreements and other interstate and intergovernmental documents signed there.

Our head of state was cordially received both by Pakistani President Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Very substantive and fruitful negotiations between the president of Kyrgyzstan and the prime minister of Pakistan were held at the latter's residence.

Both bilateral Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations and international issues were discussed, specifically the Kashmir problem, which greatly worries Pakistan.

The Pakistani side stressed its great interest in the development of comprehensive relations with Kyrgyzstan, because our two countries are linked by the deep historic roots as far back as the Great Mogols, and in particular their leader Khan Babur whose (?palaces) once stood on mounts Tark and Suleyman in Osh. Our delegation viewed the ancient Badshaki mosque, which one of Babur's heirs built in the city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province.

Akayev on Trade Developments With China, Pakistan

LD1412144894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Askar Akayev attended the opening ceremony of the 220 volts power line, which runs from the River Naryn to Naryn region. It is worth saying that if the people of Naryn have lived with 140 volts power for many years, then today they have been supplied with the necessary 220 volts electricity. Of course, it is unjust that the electricity, which is generated from the river Naryn has been doing well and supplying light to Central Asian countries while the people of Naryn had low power for many years. Now 220 volts electricity has reached Naryn region. Of course, Russian power engineers also made a great contribution to bringing power to this mountainous region. We would like to draw your attention to the opening ceremony of the new line. The ceremony was opened by Beishenbek Bolotbekov, the head of the Naryn region's state administration. [passage omitted]

[Begin Akayev recording] Greetings and congratulations. Today we are witnessing a historical event. Well, the 220 volts power line is of the greatest importance for Naryn region. That is why we, together with Dzhamalbek Toluberdiyevich Toluberdiyev [president of the Kyrgyz power company] and Yuriy Grigorevich Fedchenko, who built this line, promised that we would bring the 220 volt line to Naryn region without fail in 1994. Now we have kept our promise and brought the 220 volts line. [passage omitted]

This place is near to the border. We intend to carry on trade with China and Pakistan. We returned here yesterday from Pakistan [12 December] where we had talks. We, China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan signed a quadrilateral agreement on the Karakoram highway. We plan that this road, which passes via Naryn, Torugart, Karakoram, and Pakistan, will go onto Karachi in future. We would like to bring goods from there as there are many cheap goods. We would like to sell our own goods there.

In future, if God permits, Naryn may become one of the famous cities on this road, which is part of the former Silk Road. That is why we have to build a lot of industrial enterprises, and provide young people with jobs. [passage omitted]

At the same time China and Pakistan need electricity for their development. At present the northern regions have a power shortage. Dzhamalbek Toluberdiyevich and Yuriy Grigorevich have approved the construction of a 500 kilovolt power line to Pakistan here. Life will begin rapidly growing and developing here whereas in the past Naryn region was a somewhat secluded place, had no relations with foreign countries, and did not grow and develop. Now we are thinking that, if it is allowed, the capital will be moved to Naryn afterward. [laughs]

The reason is that the strong trade with China and Pakistan will become even stronger now. In addition, they have collected 1 billion [currency not specified] for the Karakoram highway to reach Central Asia; but they will reach it via us as both roads pass through our country. They say that they will take cotton from Uzbekistan and seed from Kazakhstan. Then we, the Kyrgyz, who are in the middle of the road, will also send wool, leather, and other goods and will obtain their goods, as well, if it is allowed. Good opportunities are opening up. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tajikistan

Duma Deputies Visit Tajik-Afghan Border

MM1412180194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Duma Assault Force to Troubled Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe-Moscow—The assault on the 12th subunit of the Tajik-Afghan border by a detachment of State Duma deputies and Kari Khamidullo's gunmen began simultaneously, as though following an order. The former, dressed in camouflage, landed from a helicopter, the latter rowed from Afghanistan across the Pyandzha rapids on rafts they had made themselves.

Only thanks to the border guards' intervention did they avoid coming into contact. The mortars were rumbling somewhere beyond mount Turg. You could not see what was going on there, five km away, at the pass. Colonel Mosyuk, chief of the Moskovskiy border detachment, reported that the violator, having incurred personnel and equipment losses (one raft sank), was returning to the adjacent territory.

The Duma deputies, shrinking in the cold wind, were wheezing and nodding their heads understandingly. The day before they had visited Yerevan on the same "border line" and had shown quite good results there practising shooting from Kalashnikovs and grenade throwers. But here there were few who regretted not having occasion to shoot or to come face to face with the mojahedin.

Nonetheless, on returning to Moscow, they all received thanks from General Bordyuzha, Russian border troops deputy commander in chief, for their valor and staunchness and also valuable gifts in the form of "Pogranichnyye" watches. In turn Agrarian Party faction member Vladimir Isakov, expressing profound satisfaction at the results of the trip, called this experience of communication between the military and the people's elected representatives "civilized."

It is hard to say what the Duma legislation committee chairman had in mind, but there is as much that is civilized as there is that is barbaric in lobbying as a means of extorting money from the budget. That applies particularly to a sphere like the protection of state borders. It is doubly annoying that this has to be proven with the aid of excursions, well heated bathhouses, and lavish meals. But what can you do, I was told by the men in green caps, the alarming information about the situation on the outskirts of Russia and the CIS does not reach the legislators and governors by other means.

The situation is indeed desperate. Since the collapse of the Union the length of the dry land borders which Russia has to defend has increased by many thousands of kilometers. Whereas in the USSR there were 200,000 border guards, Russia now needs 250,000. On some sectors the understaffing of officers and personnel is 30-40 percent. Contraband, the illegal crossing of the border, and other violations have reached unprecedented scales.

According to the Federal Border Service about half the signals systems and complexes are worn out and need to be replaced. Because of the shortage of spare parts and money to pay for repair a considerable proportion of aviation and automobile equipment is standing idle. Only one third of the patrol vessels in the Pacific and Arctic are in service. The border guards' total debts to Russian industry are 125 billion rubles. The border guards certainly rank first in terms of the proportion of homeless men in military uniform.

The sum for the border troops' maintenance envisaged in the draft budget for 1995 has been called "catastrophic" by the service leadership. With such a meager handout the guardians of our borders will become even more despondent. They predict a further reduction in the effectiveness of their efforts and ask for a 50 percent increase and even better a 100 percent increase.

The deputies, discussing this subject after their visit to the 12th subunit, admitted unanimously that the amount should be increased. But where to take the money from? Disputes began. Some suggest cutting back funding for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, others suggest cutting funding for private enterprises, others for industrial regions. The border guards hope that they will seek and find in the Duma.

Tajikistan and, in particular, the legendary 12th border subunit, have to all appearances made an impression on them. Like an insatiable moloch, the border across the Pyandzha requires increasing funds. The border subunits, having dug in, have been transformed into fortified areas defending only themselves. There is no question of controlling the entire line 1,500 km long, as there was before. When you are there you realize the absurdity of sitting in stone shelters as the only means of guarding the border. First, because the border is still penetrable and, second, it cannot continue like that forever. A political decision is needed.

The cease fire agreement reached in Islamabad which entered into force 20 October is not being fulfilled in practice. If there is some kind of lull it is explained by the weather. The snow has closed the passes, you do not particularly want to fight in freezing weather. Yet there is shooting almost every day. But the UN observers either cannot get through or doubt the objectivity of our border guards' reports. For a whole month they recorded only two violations, blaming the opposition.

The head of the UN military observers, the Jordanian Hasan 'Abbas, has asked General Chechulin not to get carried away with recording activities since, in his opinion, that could harm dialogue. Understandably, Abdullo Said Nuri, the head of the Tajik Government in exile, does not command all the gunmen, but it is at least a good thing that he is not refusing talks. The next round should be held soon in Moscow.

The border guards are not listening to 'Abbas and are punctiliously reporting all incidents to the center. Their dispatches, unlike the UN ones, are distinguished by the great diversity of recorded attacks and shootings.

Nuri asserts that the Russian military are specially dramatizing the situation on the border but at the same time has appealed to the mojahedin to enter Tajikistan more boldly and seize new bridgeheads. Afghanistan, he said, will give them another year to get off its territory and cross the Pyandzh. If it takes place that crossing will hardly be peaceful.

Foreign Ministry: Opposition Seeks To Wreck Talks

LD1412192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, 14 Dec (INTERFAX)—Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry has accused the militant opposition of seeking to wreck the next, fourth round of government-opposition talks scheduled for January.

A ministry spokesman said the current tension on the Tajik-Afghan border, especially on its Badakhshan section, made it "obvious" that the "intransigent opposition" was not prepared to meet its commitment to stop fire on the border and within the former Soviet republic by February 6.

On December 11, opposition guerrillas assaulted a Russian border guard detail in the Kalaikhum area, killing one soldier and wounding seven, Zafar Saidov told Interfax on Wednesday [14 December].

Commanders of Afghan armed detachments "connive for, and at times give direct support to, the training" of guerrillas and the "accumulation of forces" by them, Saidov said. He said militants "unrestrictedly move" through Afghan territory and set up bases and training camps there, getting ready for border "provocations."

The Tajik Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note to Afghanistan in connection with "obvious facts that it (Afghanistan) is providing conditions for the Tajik opposition to stage provocative acts on the border," Saidov said.

Uzbek Gas Supplies Cut To Power Stations, Industry

LD1412171894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the reduction in gas supplies from Uzbekistan's gas fields because of the lack of chemical reagents and the impossibility of obtaining them, the residual pressure of gas in arterial gas pipe lines has fallen below the permitted technological level. For these reasons the supply of natural gas to our republic has dropped sharply, so there is only enough for the everyday needs of the population. For some time natural fuel, utilized by thermo-electric power stations and other industrial enterprises, will be cut off.

Uzbekistan

Deputy Premier Leaves for Talks in U.S.

LD1412122294 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 0100 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Utkam Sultonov has left for the United States. There will be discussions [words indistinct] in Washington. These discussions will (?focus) on cooperation in various fields between Uzbekistan and the United States.

Yesterday, the world mass media and especially the BBC attached importance to this.

The deputy prime minister of our country will open a new phase in relations between the two countries. At the meeting in Washington economic questions will be discussed. (?Agremeents on investments) will be signed.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Chechen Events

LD1512073694 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the events taking place in the Chechen Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan finds it necessary to state the following:

The events taking place in the Chechen Republic are the internal affair of Russia, since the Chechen Republic forms an entity within the Russian Federation, and the Constitution and all laws of the Russian state apply to it.

At the same time, we advocate the greatest possible use of political means and negotiating processes to achieve stability in this region, and we advocate the observance of law and of human rights and freedoms.

Termed Russia's Internal Affair

LD1412194294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Dec 14 (Interfax)—The current developments in Chechnya are "Russia's internal affair, since the Chechen republic is a constituent member of the Russian Federation," says the statement by the Uzbek Foreign Ministry, circulated in Tashkent on Monday [12 December].

The document says that "the constitution and laws of the Russian state apply to Chechnya."

"At the same time, we are in favour of political talks, the restoration of stability in this region and the observation of laws, and human rights and freedoms," says the document.

No Mass Exodus of Russians from Uzbekistan

LD1412193194 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 14 Dec 94 p 3

[Reprinted from TRUD, 9 December 1994]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rumors about the mass migration of Russians from Uzbekistan have turned out to be severely exaggerated. [passage omitted]

Detailed acquaintance with the situation on Almalyk convinced us that the rumors about the mass departure of the Russian-speaking population from Uzbekistan, mildly speaking, are somewhat exaggerated, and that the rumors were being stirred up by someone deliberately. No matter how hard we tried to find someone who himself experienced a manifestation of so called "everyday nationalism" we failed. We often heard: "Here everything is quiet, our neighbors are good. But in some other places they say...Uzbek youths are terrorizing Russians, and surreptitiously placing threatening notes in their letter-boxes."

Such words are not so inoffensive as they may seem at first sight. In such a situation on the territory of the former Soviet Union when here or there interethnic conflicts break out, even such a spark is enough to cause some part of the population psychological trauma. It is especially annoying as all the laws of the republic and the decisions made by the government precisely and clearly declare that every citizen has equal rights regardless of nationality. And this is so in the industrial sphere, as well as in business relations. After visiting the factories and mines of the Almalyk mining metallurgical industrial complex and talking with workers and managers there, one inevitably comes to this conclusion. [passage omitted]

On our way from Tashkent to Moscow on board the aircraft, reflecting on what we had seen and heard in Uzbekistan, one of us unwittingly noticed the fact that the Boeing-757 belonging to the Transaero Russian air company was far from fully loaded, despite its services, which meet European standards, and relatively inexpensive air tickets. But airports in towns and republics, from which there is mass exodus of the Russian-speaking population, as a rule, are crowded with passengers. And aircraft do not fly from there with empty seats.

Government Resolution Eases Trade Restrictions

LD1512094194 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to liberalize trade in the republic.

With the aim of increasing the interest of trade organizations in filling the consumer market with foodstuffs and manufactured goods the Cabinet of Ministers resolves:

1. It is established that from 1 January 1995 the amount of trade surcharges will be determined by trade organizations independently depending on expenditure on transporting, storing, and selling goods. The Ministry of Finance and the State Committee on Taxation of the Republic of Uzbekistan have 10 days in which to present interested organizations with the procedure for determining trade surcharges.

2. The list of main foodstuffs and manufactured goods that must be available in the retail trade network is established as set out in the appendix.

Responsibility for the unconditional implementation of this paragraph is laid on the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, the heads of regional administrations and the city of Tashkent, and personally on Mirabror Usmanov, the deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3. From 1 January 1995 restrictions on selling essential regulated foodstuffs and manufactured goods to the population will be cancelled.

4. The state association Uzbeksavdo [Uzbek trade], Uzbekbirlyashu, and ministries and departments that have trade networks, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the heads of regional administrations and the City of Tashkent, while concluding contracts with the new owners of trade enterprises, must provide for the presence in free trade of the goods listed in the appendix and continue work on looking for goods resources to fill the consumer market and ensure their smooth sale to the population of the republic.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers's resolutions No. 59 of 6 March 1991, No. 80 of 1 April 1991, paragraphs 1 and 7 of No. 98 of 26 February 1994, and instruction No. 199F of the Cabinet of Ministers of 30 May 1994 are to be considered null and void from 1 January 1995.

6. Mirabror Usmanov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is charged with supervising the implementation of this resolution.

Islam Karimov, president of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Appendix to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers:

List of main foodstuffs and manufactured goods that must be available in the retail trade network:

flour, pasta, vegetable oil, sugar, tea, salt, soap, and matches.

Armenia

Spokesman Says Chechnya Russia's Internal Affair

LD1412164294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1533 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan. December 14. INTERFAX—"The events in Chechnya are Russia's internal affair," aide of the Armenian president Levon Zurabyan declared in an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday [14 December].

In his opinion, "the situation in Chechnya cannot affect the Armenian-Russian relations in any way."

In an interview with INTERFAX a top-ranking official from Armenia's Foreign Ministry, an expert on Russian-Armenian relations, said that "Armenia is interested in a civilized peace settlement of the conflict in Chechnya." Many Armenians live in the North Caucasus, including Chechnya, and "we attract much significance to normalization of the situation in this region," the diplomat underlined.

In addition, he pointed out that a negative turn in Chechen events could destabilize the political situation in Russia and this, in its turn, can affect the Armenian-Russian relations. "Armenia has always attracted much significance to its relations with Russia and we are interested in a strong and democratic northern neighbor," the Armenian diplomat declared.

At the same time several observers in Armenia believe that a spreading of the conflict could result in dragging in states of the Transcaucasian Region, in particular, Azerbaijan.

Karabakh's Information and Press Department asserted several days ago that a 400-strong battalion was sent from Azerbaijan to Chechnya. Baku has refuted this information.

Meanwhile, leader of the party Boz Gurd (Grey Wolves) Iskender Gamidov, who occupied the post of Azerbaijan's interior minister under Abulfaz Elchibey's regime, recognized in an interview last week that about 270 volunteers from the Boz Gurd party were sent to Chechnya.

Cabinet Views Reforms; Deputy Interior Minister Appointed

NC1412202194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In its 14 December meeting, held under Prime Minister Hrand Bagratyan, the Armenian Council of Ministers Presidium summed up the results of the first two weeks of the new economic policy.

The government's press service reported that follow-up measures were formulated based on the existing situation. It was noted that the IMF will transfer the first $24 million to the Armenian Central Bank on 16 December. This will augment foreign currency reserves and will thus substantially assist in the realization of the government's economic policy.

The Presidium also examined a number of strategic issues relating to the socio-economic life of the republic in 1995.

Cadre problems were also discussed. Artsrun Lendrushi Margaryan has been appointed deputy interior minister of the Armenian Republic.

Azerbaijan

Bank Clearing Agreement Signed With Iran

NC1412144094 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an agreement that has been signed between Azerbaijan and Iran on clearing services, the volume of commodities that are exchanged between the two countries will increase to $10 million. Murid Ambarov, director of the Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, has informed our correspondent that accounts are being opened in the banks of the two countries for clearing procedures. According to the agreement, Azerbaijan will mainly supply petroleum products to Iran and receive buses and provisions in return.

ICO Resolution Condemns Armenian 'Aggression'

NC1412215094 Baku TURAN in English 1307 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca (December 14) TURAN: Political resolution condemning Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan was adopted during final session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]-member states. The resolution also demands immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied Azeri territories, including Shusha and Lachin, reports TURAN's correspondent from Casablanca.

The Council of Ministers of ICO-member states appealed to the UN "to be more persistent demanding implementation of the resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh adopted by the UN SC [Security Council]".

The Council of Ministers of ICO-member states also appealed to all members of Islam Conference Organization to provide humanitarian and economic assistance to Azerbaijan.

Final political communique of the Council of Foreign Ministers also demands stoppage of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied Azeri territories.

Azeri Foreign Minister, Hasan Hasanov, and the ICO Secretary General, Hamid al-Ghabid, achieved agreement, under which Azerbaijan will be nominated as a candidature for conduction of the session of Council of Ministers of ICO-member states in Baku.

At the initiative of several the ICO-member states, President Aliyev will be given the floor at the final meeting of the summit, which is due to take place today.

Political Parties Picket in Front of Russian Embassy

NC1412214894 Baku TURAN in English 1307 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (December 14) TURAN: Today at 12:00 o'clock representatives from the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan], Musavat, Democratic party, Ana Torpag [Motherland], and National Freedom parties conducted the picket in front of "Azerbaijan" hotel, where Russian Embassy located.

150 people with the slogans "Stop genocide of Chechens", "Stop bloodshed in Chechnya", "Hands off Chechens" took part in the picket. The representatives of political parties presented the demands of the picket participants and statements of political parties to the consular of Russian Embassy, Mr Boyko.

"We told Mr Boyko that Moscow offers Azerbaijan to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani peacefully while itself introduces tanks in Chechnya", the Chairman of Musavat party, Agajavad Javadov, told Turan. He said that Russian diplomat promised to inform its leadership about the demands of the picket participants.

It was the third picket over the last week. "If Azerbaijan supports Chechnya's independence, we'll do the same in respect Nagorno-Karabakh," said high ranking employee in Russian Embassy.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Supports Russian Actions in Chechnya

LD1412202794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to numerous questions concerning Eduard Shevardnadze's assessment of Chechen events, the press service of the chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state has issued the following information:

Events in Chechnya prove the correctness of what the head of state told journalists at the beginning of 1993, before the fall of Sukhumi. The main idea of his statements was that the tragedy there would rebound like a boomerang on everyone responsible for the genocide of the majority of Abkhazia's population and ethnic cleansing.

Nevertheless, following the publication of President Boris Yeltsin's well-known statement [as received], Eduard Shevardnadze has told journalists that no other way of action is available to Russia, and that the preservation of territorial integrity is of vital importance for the Russian state, as it is for other countries.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Arrives in Sukhumi

LD1412193394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sukhumi, December 14, INTERFAX—Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev arrived in Sukhumi on December 13.

The command of the Russian peacekeeping troops stationed in Abkhazia said Kondratyev had come for the changing of units of peacekeepers according to the schedule.

A source in the Russian peacekeepers' command told Interfax that three trains of troops, including servicemen of the Volga Region and Urals military districts were to arrive in the Ghali Region of Abkhazia via Abkhaz territory on Thursday. They will change places with paratroopers stationed in Abkhazia.

Russian Troops 'Cope Well' With Abkhazia Peacekeeping

MM1512110094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Prokopenko: "Abkhazia: Complex Situation. Results of Six Months' Activity by the Russian Peacekeepers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Abkhazia, where Russian peacekeepers are serving, is extremely tense, according to Major General Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict. Alongside a number of political factors, recent events in Chechnya have had a considerable effect on this.

Thus, there was a large rally in Sukhumi 13 December which condemned Russia's policy in respect of Chechnya. As of 14 December the registration of volunteers is being conducted in the city. Young people with rucksacks on their backs and weapons in their hands were already appearing on the streets this morning. So-called volunteers. The attitude to them here is mixed. On the one hand their impulse is being justified by the fact that at one time Chechen volunteers took an active part in combat actions on the Abkhazians' side. On the other hand, from what an officer in the Abkhazian Army said, it is not people who are gripped by the idea of Caucasian solidarity who are hastening to Chechnya but rather people who were involved in plundering and marauding during the war.

But whereas you can categorize the mobilization of volunteers as a form of public, informal organization, the Abkhazian leadership decision to put Abkhazian Army units on combat alert is completely incomprehensible. In this situation, the question arises: Is it worth the Russians' ensuring peace in the republic if its citizens then stand up on Chechnya's side and take part in combat actions against the same Russian soldiers?

That is approximately how Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, who was on a working visit to units of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict, described the situation in a conversation with Lieutenant General Sosnaliyev, defense minister of the Republic of Abkhazia. It was he who gave the order to put the peacekeeping forces on combat alert.

At a 14 December conference at the headquarters of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict, Col. Gen. Georgiy Kondratyev heard a report from Collective Peacekeeping Forces commander Maj. Gen. Vasiliy Yakushev on the results of the Russian peacekeepers' six months of activity and confirmed the plan for the upcoming replacement of subunits. It is being proposed that, if the Federal Assembly makes a positive decision, the present peacekeepers will be replaced by servicemen from one of the regiments of the 27th Motorized Rifle Division.

So, summing up the six months' activity in the conflict zone, it can be said that the Russian soldiers have destroyed over 600 firearms and more than 25 pieces of heavy armored equipment and have deactivated over 5,000 mines and a large quantity of ammunition. The Russians have coped well with their mission. Peace has been reestablished on Abkhazian land. Now it is up to the politicians.

Defense Minister Denies Troops Building on Inguri River

LD1412195794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi 14 Dec (INTERFAX)—Georgian Defense Minister Varden Nadibaidze denied statements of Abkhaz official sources alleging concentration of Georgian troops near the Abkhaz border on the Inguri River.

He told Interfax today that the statements were "absurd and provocative."

Nadibaidze said that Georgian troops were training where they were permanently stationed, as usual.

However, the Abkhaz Defense Ministry and Security Service said that Georgian troops had been put on alert in West Georgia. The same sources said that Georgian refugees were preparing for a march to Abkhazia and were forming military units in Zugdidi.

On the night of December 13 the Abkhaz army was put on alert. Abkhaz Defense Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev explained this was due to the necessity to prevent possible provocations on the Abkhaz-Georgian border.

On November 26 this year Abkhazia adopted a new constitution declaring it as an independent state. Abkhazia is de juro an autonomy within the composition of Georgia. Tbilisi considered the Abkhaz move as aiming at breaking Georgia's territorial integrity.

Abkhazian Armed Forces Placed on Alert

LD1412181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchyogoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi December 14 TASS—Sultan Sosnolyev, defense minister of Abkhazia, issued an order to alert the armed forces of the republic.

This order is caused by the fact that the situation in Georgian districts bordering on Abkhazia is becoming more and more tense, a spokesman for the Information and Press Ministry of the republic told ITAR-TASS today.

According to data from this ministry released with the reference to Abkhazian special services, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze recently visited the Zugdidi district. The president checked combat readiness of units of the Georgian Army stationed in this region.

The same Abkhazian sources assert that the local population in the Zugdidi district of Georgia is being mobilized with the aim of forming armed groups which are planned to be used in combat actions in Abkhazia. The concentration of heavy armored machinery is observed in the area near the River Inguri.

Railroad Talks Spark Abkhaz Fear of Georgian Troops' Return

MM1512113094 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Chernov: "Volunteers Coming from Abkhazia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sochi—"Chechen volunteers helped Abkhazia when its people were defending their independence in the war against Georgia, so it is a matter of honor for the Abkhazians to help the Chechens." This resolution was adopted at a rally held in the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi. The registration of volunteers has begun, and, according to information at the disposal of your TRUD correspondent, some of them have already been dispatched to Groznyy.

The situation in Abkhazia itself cannot be called calm. A combat alert has been declared in the republic's armed forces. All service leave has been canceled. Reservists are expecting to be called up.

All this is not just connected with events in Chechnya. The Abkhazians are seriously alarmed by reports that the recent CIS heads of government meeting discussed the question of opening the railroad between Russia's Veseloye station and Samtredia in Georgia across Abkhazian territory. As we know, this section of the Transcaucasus railroad has not been functioning for over two years. Now, through the Abkhazians' efforts, the line has been restored and in theory can be put into operation. But the question of opening communications between Veseloye and Samtredia was discussed without the participation of the Abkhazian side, and consequently Sukhumi has come to the conclusion that what happened in 1992 could be repeated. After all, it was on the pretext of ensuring the security of traffic on this very railroad that Georgian troops were brought into Abkhazia.

Report Views Situation in 'Lawless' Svanetia

AU1412180094 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 29 Nov 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Georgian State Jurisdiction No Longer Extends to Svanetia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our newspaper has more than once described the serious situation that has taken shape in Svanetia. Clearly, we were under no illusions that a newspaper could rectify the situation, although we had hoped that government representatives would have nevertheless devoted more attention to the matter. One cannot explain what is happening in Svanetia by referring to the general serious situation in the republic. Today, everything here is blamed on objective difficulties as if the aim were to justify oneself and not to improve things. It has become a tradition to start thinking about solving a problem when it has manifested itself in all its seriousness and has acquired an irreversible nature.

Without exaggerating in any way, to all intents and purposes, there is no longer any government in Svanetia and the Georgian state's jurisdiction, in its strictest sense, no longer extends there. There have probably been more murders this year than between 1917-93. No records are being kept and no criminal proceedings have formally been instigated. Theft and robbery have become commonplace and it is no longer possible to stroll down the street. There are no longer any police, a procurator's office, or courts. Such a situation is perverting the psyche of young people, who are growing up in an effectively lawless situation. Representatives of the government have not been in Svanetia for goodness knows how long. The television and press have forgotten about this corner of Georgia. We cannot cast any blame; on the contrary, we warn our colleagues in a friendly way not to try to take any kind of equipment or anything with the least value there, as it will be taken from them! The cynicism of the robbers has reached such a point that they recently robbed members of the church, who were taking humanitarian aid up there. The narcotics business is becoming firmly established and opium and marijuana are being produced on an increasingly wide scale. The population is in despair and no longer pins its hopes on anything or anyone. In private conversations, people shared their individual difficulties with us; they informed us of episodes from their daily lives, which have become unbearable, and recounted cases of murder. One is left with the impression that the scum has finally triumphed over humanity. We cannot assume the right to bring to light everything that is happening in Svanetia. This is, unfortunately, such a shameful state secret that its disclosure would, in general, place our statehood in doubt. This is probably well known to those who have been entrusted with solving these problems and to Svanetia's so called leaders but, if it is not, let them go and see for themselves. However, Svanetia's population is convinced that the authorities have simply forgotten about this corner and those who have been entrusted with sorting out Svanetia's problems are good for nothing. As can be seen, they do not have the power, the intellect, or the desire to do anything or... they are suffering from all these misfortunes. The principal concern now should be that well thought-out and firm steps be taken in the future. After all, what would it take to deal with 50-100 robbers?! It may seem an exaggeration but around 100 robbers have indeed severed Svanetia from Georgia's jurisdiction. How much worse must things get before we devote any attention to this problem?!

In short, a most serious situation has taken shape and it is no surprise that an intolerable and most distressing economic situation prevails there as well. A large part of the population is starving. Moreover, there will soon be snow and the roads will be finally closed in the very near future, if this has not happened already. It is possible that Georgian land will once more witness genocide committed against its own people before spring. This year, flour has been distributed only three or four times, amounting to about 20 kg per head. Fortunately, the American charity organization "Care" has distributed a further 12.5 kg per head, bringing the total amount to 32.5 kg over 11 months. No petrol, matches, salt, or soap have been delivered to the region for the last two or three years and soap is considered a luxury. Svanetia is effectively no longer being supplied with anything, but, no matter how paradoxical it may seem, there is no sense in delivering goods. As a rule, the convoys are attacked and absolutely all the goods belonging to the population are stolen. In principle, it is also not worth talking about economic problems for, unless there is an improvement in the crime situation, one cannot even dream of any favorable shifts taking place.

There is a place on the Jvari-Mestia road called Khokl that was previously one of the robbers' dens. There is now a Russian peacekeeping force there. Robbery has been halted in this area. If Russian soldiers are sent further up, there will probably be a relative improvement in the situation there as well. Who could possibly not wish for things to get better? However, why should the belief prevail that we Georgians are unable to establish order and that we need the foreign boot and whip after all?!

We have lost the war in Abkhazia but not against the Abkhazians, the Russians, or any other foreigners. We lost the war, in the first instance, against ourselves. We were unable to establish basic order and the situation is the same today. If things continue in this way, it will not be difficult to predict that we will lose all wars. Georgia represents the unification of its regions and Akaki's [Tsereteli, Georgian poet] poem, which has become such a popular song, was not written only to amuse us at drunken feasts: "If one of them [string on the chonguri, a four-stringed musical instrument] breaks, it should be attended to at once."

Estonia

Parliament Passes 1995 State Budget

WS1512114294 Tallinn BNS in English 1822 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 14, BNS—The Estonian parliament on Wednesday [14 December] passed the government budget for 1995.

The budget, which is balanced at 8.793 billion kroons, was approved in a 67-4 vote with two abstentions.

Leading in the budget's income section are earnings from the value-added tax, with 4.3 billion kroons, the individual income tax with 1.822 billion kroons, and the corporate income tax, with 1.17 billion kroons.

Along with the draft budget, the government for the first time ever also submitted a draft state investment plan for 1995. The 1.584 billion kroon investment program is expected to be financed from foreign loans and aid, from which a total 906 million kroons is to come, and from the state budget, which is to provide 678 million kroons.

The government also announced plans to mark off 1.602 billion kroons in state investment in 1996, and 1.614 billion in 1997.

Topping the list of destinations for state investment next year is the energy sector, which is to receive 420 million kroons. Transport and construction of roads is to get 294 million kroons, while 280 million is earmarked for financial investment.

Russian Aggression Against Chechnya Protested

LD1412142494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 14 Dec 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] At noon a picket took place in front of the Russian Embassy building in Pikk Street in Tallinn, with several Estonian MPs attending. Protests were made against the Russian aggression against Chechnya. As the Better Estonia national association had called for the picket, it was the association chairman Ants Erm who was the first to speak. He appealed to those present as well as to the government to support the Chechen people. Lauri Vahtre, a member of the parliamentary Fatherland group read out the statement adopted by the Riigikogu yesterday. This is what journalist Juri Estam said.

[Estam] [passage omitted] "Is it not that there is now a repeat performance of 1956 in Hungary, and 1968 in Prague? Or is it not almost ironical that there is this coincidence that the Aghan invasion also began at Christmas time in 1979? Now there is another Christmas gift like this."

[Announcer] Linnart Mall spoke on behalf of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization.

[Mall] "At present the whole world has been split in two. The politicians of the world are even more split. It is clear to see that the honest politicians, wherever they may live, support the Chechen Republic. It is as clear that dishonest politicians support only their own ambitious aims as they have always done." [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Here is MP Jaanus Betlem.

[Betlem] "Only the people who respect the others' independence and freedom are free, and so the resolution of the Chechen issue serves also as a yardstick for measuring Russia's independence and freedom. If Russia does not want all the people of the empire rising like one and destroying Russia, she must immediately, today, and this very minute, end her aggression and any kind of military activity against the independent Chechen Republic." [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The pickets were carefully watched from the Russian Embassy building but nobody came out. Halfway through the picket, the Chechens living in Estonia also joined in.

Latvia

Riga, Moscow Prepare Accords Simplifying Border Crossings

LD1412135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 14 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga December 14 TASS—Russia and Latvia plan to sign six agreements in Moscow on Wednesday [14 December], mostly of humanitarian nature. Three of them simplify the procedure of mutual trips by citizens and the regime of crossing the border by residents of border areas.

For instance, residents having no Latvian citizenship may go to Russia without visas, in future too, and freely return back. Nationals of the two states need visas and invitations. However, the documents provide for exceptions from the rule as well as for privileges.

For instance, a voucher to a health-building centre will serve as an invitation. People wishing to visit graves of their relatives in the neighbouring state will get a free visa.

Residents in border areas will be able to cross the border at special passage points if trips are connected with their jobs as well as for visits to their kith and kin as well as graves of relatives.

The sides also plan to sign in Moscow a consular convention and agreements on the operation of border representatives and protection of industrial property.

Latvian Foreign Ministry Secretary of State Maris Riekstins, leading the delegation, said that some other issues will be also discussed in Moscow, including establishment of mixed commissions to resolve specific questions in various spheres, possibilities of meetings between the ministers of foreign affairs and transport as well as the situation with former Russian servicemen and their families who did not leave Latvia, despite the interstate treaty.

Parliament Convenes To Discuss Critical Crime Situation

WS1512114194 Tallinn BNS in English 1211 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Dec 14, BNS - The Latvian Saeima (parliament) convened Wednesday [14 December] for an extraordinary session to discuss the critical crime situation in the country. Latvia faces the danger of becoming "a state ruled by organized criminals," said initiator of the session Oskars Grigs.

As a result of the surging crime rate, criminal groupings will take over the state power and residents will start to arm themselves what is likely to grow into a civil war, said Grigs.

The whole situation may develop in UN peacekeeping forces being brought in the country, Grigs said.

To avoid this, the parliament should redraft the law on emergency situations because its present edition fails to ensure a gradual introduction of emergency situation. The initial stages of this process should only provide for extraordinary governmental measures.

In his address to the session, Prime Minister Maris Gailis underscored that combatting organized crime and corruption was one of government priorities. It is also reflected in the 1995 budget plan which raises the law enforcement funding 50 percent, said Gailis.

Gailis said he restored a Crime Monitoring Council last month to coordinate and inform law enforcement structures. The council includes the prime minister, the prosecutor general, the Home Guard commander and the criminal research center director.

At the session, Prosecutor General Janis Skrastins conceded that the counteraction of law enforcement institutions to corruption, racket and tax evasion was insufficient. The number of grave crimes, for example, soared from 111 murders in 1988 to 429 in 1993, he said.

Interior Minister Janis Adamsons added that the percentage of detected crimes was very small. Last year, 29 percent of all crimes were detected in Latvia and 16 percent in Riga.

The number of economic crimes could be curbed by forming a well-equipped frontier police, Adamsons said. The sphere of activities of the immigration police should also be expanded but now the plan lacks real financing, he said. Latvia also lacks laws allowing to deport illegal immigrants.

In addition, Adamsons suggested that the legislation be amended to extend prison terms for serious crimes to 25 years or even life imprisonment.

MP's often act irresponsibly when speaking about the discharge of non-citizens from police service as similar statements result in many highly-qualified professionals leaving interior structures, the minister noted. In 1993, 9,000 employees left jobs in the Interior Ministry system, he added.

Lithuania

Parliament Discusses Possible Mediation in Chechen

LD1412143294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys is expected to speak on the country's foreign policy in the context of the Chechen developments at an extraordinary plenary session of parliament on Wednesday [14 December] afternoon.

On Tuesday the parliament began the discussion of a draft resolution suggesting the formation of a delegation of mediators to Chechnya. The opinions of MPs on the issue divided. The speaker Ceslovas Jursenas felt that mediators can be sent, if all conflicting sides ask for such a mission, but now that only the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is interested in mediation, one can speak only of a goodwill mission.

The Union of the Center led by Romualdas Ozolas circulated a statement Tuesday demanding that the Lithuanian leadership immediately recognize the independence of Chechnya. The nationalist newspaper JAUNOJI LIETUVA also demands the recognition of independence. On Wednesday it published a statement demanding that the UN General Assembly raise the question of recognizing "Russian imperialism as a criminal ideology and making the leaders of Russia who ordered the invasion in Chechnya face an international court." The paper also demands "the immediate repatriation of the Russian settlers who illegally arrived in Lithuania during the years of occupation, the prevention of Russian military transit across Lithuania and an end to cultural and sports exchanges with Russia."

Foreign Minister: Chechnya Russia's Internal Affair

LD1412230194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys has made it clear that the official Lithuanian policy on the conflict in Chechnya will not be different from the stand of the international community. The conflict must be settled peacefully, and it is Russia's internal affair.

Minister Gylys, speaking in the Seimas on Wednesday [14 December], stressed that Lithuania respected its international obligations and the agreements it has signed, including the Lithuanian political agreement with Russia of 29 July 1991, in which Lithuania recognizes Russia's territorial integrity. In the minister's view, the international community has more possibilities to influence events in North Caucasus, whereas Lithuania's possibilities there are limited.

He also pointed out that a mediating mission can be carried out only by a country acceptable to both parties of the confrontation. Meanwhile, Lithuania has so far not received such a bilateral request. Povilas Gylys urged the audience not to forget Lithuania's national interests and stressed that the present opposition, being in power, would not take a single step toward the recognition of Chechnya. The minister said that statements by some Lithuanian parliamentarians addressed to the democratic and Muslin states were also unacceptable. He stressed that, being in power now, the present opposition would not make a single step toward the recognition of the Chechen republic.

Russia Advises Public Against Traveling to Chechnya

LD1512121394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A note from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking to inform the citizens of Lithuania of the necessity to avoid traveling to the Republic of Chechnya was received by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the event that citizens of Lithuania decide to go to Chechnya, the Russian Federation would not be responsible for their rights and safety in this area.

The note from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also says that because of the state of emergency in the Republic of North Ossetia and the Republic of Ingushetia, entry by foreign citizens into the territories of the above republics has been restricted.

This report was received from the press and information department at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Security Chief: No Information Supplied to Russian Services

WS1512122194 Tallinn BNS in English 1630 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Dec 14, BNS—The Lithuanian National Security Department has not supplied any information to Russian special services, the department's director, Jurgis Jurgelis, told BNS.

The Russian news agency Interfax recently reported that Russian special services established contacts with similar structures in the Baltic states, Ukraine and certain countries in the Caucasus in order to track down mercenaries fighting in Chechnya.

Jurgelis said no Russian services have tried to contact the Lithuanian department. He also added that no Lithuanians have ever been sent to fight in Chechnya by the government. If any Lithuanians did go to Chechnya, then only as individual persons, the official said. "You cannot catch each and every one."

Jurgelis said his department does not have an agreement with Russian special services that would allow to exchange information or to cooperate in some other way. But in his opinion, Lithuania needs such accords with both the East and the West to make the struggle against terrorism and drug trafficking more efficient.

Parliament Ratifies Free Trade Agreement With Ukraine

LD1512115594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lithuanian-Ukrainian free trade agreement has been ratified by the Lithuanian Seimas today.

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